

**Forum:** Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

**Issue #01:** Measures to address corruption in sports

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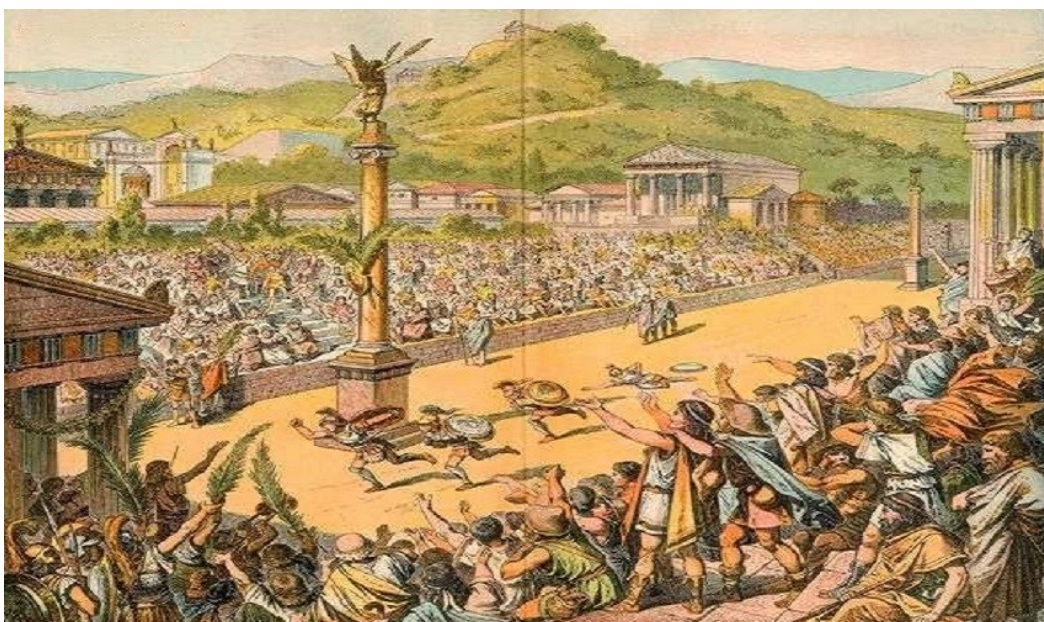
## Introduction

### Key Terms

Corruption  
Bribery  
Fixing/rigging  
Illegal betting  
Doping  
Conflict of Interest

Sports **corruption** is ancient and has been relevant since the ancient Olympic Games where athletes took bribes to lose the competition. The evolution of sports overtime has been accompanied by significant rising risks of **corruption** and criminality. Sports are a lucrative, multi-billion dollar industry that is

prone to foul play. This includes everything from bribery, to fixing or rigging games to doping or also illicit and illegal activity occurring as a byproduct of the atmosphere that is created. There is little to no existing domestic legislation regarding these issues, it has only started to gain traction somewhat recently. This is typically because of the involvement of government bodies in these scandals due to the existing connections between politicians and high-profile individuals. Governments typically keep these scandals as a secret in order to protect themselves and high profile people, ie. sports directors or coordinators and even famous players from loss of credibility. Another contributing factor is the lack of cooperation and communication between sports organizations and each nation's respective governments. As well as the lack of resources and attention that nations care to give to this issue. Whether that be due to a conflict of interest or due to a simple lack of attention. Slowly, there has been a rise in the recognition of this issue and that there are not sufficient resources being put towards the possible resolutions. Many times what leads to these illegal activities is simply the incentive of money. According to an article on SFLA, many second-tier clubs (clubs that have a smaller level of importance or recognition) and below are not able to pay salaries after the first half of the season due to the lack of financial planning.



**Comprehension Question(s):** What could be some of the reasons that an athlete/team would involve themselves with sports corruption/related criminal activity?

How and why has sports corruption affected athletes, fans, and communities worldwide? Why is sports corruption such an issue of importance?

What do the following countries that have committed crimes related to sports corruption have in common?

## Definition of Key Terms

**Corruption:** dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power, typically involving bribery.

**Bribery:** the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of any item of value to influence the actions of an official, or other person, in charge of a public or legal duty.

**Fixing/rigging:** partially or completely pre-determining the result of a match, violating the rules of the game and often the law. Could occur due to players of the losing team being bribed or referees being bribed

**Illegal Betting:** any sports betting activity whose type or operator is not allowed under the applicable law of the jurisdiction where the consumer is located. For example, a player, referee, or executive of a competition betting on a match which they have a direct influence over. This could lead to a conflict of interest.

**Conflict of interest:** a situation in which a person is in a position to derive personal benefit from actions or decisions made in their official capacity. For example, a referee betting on a game he is set to referee. This is an issue because it could lead the referee

to referee the game differently in order to get the result he bet on.

**Doping:** administering drugs to (a racehorse, greyhound, or athlete) in order to hinder or enhance performance

## Current Situation



Even though corruption in sport has become quite widespread in recent years, it, unfortunately, has always existed. In fact, corruption even existed as far back as the ancient olympics where some athletes tried to bribe or sabotage their opponents. One very famous example of this occurring is the story of the boxer Eupolus bribing his three opponents at Olympia. Fortunately, all 4 of the contestants were punished. Of course, corruption has happened in all kinds of sports but the two organizations that have suffered the most from corruption recently are FIFA and the olympic games.



## Corruption in International Association Football

One of the clearest examples of corruption in FIFA (Federation Internationale de

Football Association or International Federation of Association Football) is former FIFA president, Sepp Blatter, and other executives receiving bribes from Qatar in order to vote in favor of their world cup 2022 proposal. Thankfully, Blatter resigned on June 2nd, 2015, surprisingly enough just a few days after being re-elected, because of the U.S.'s and Sweden's incoming investigations on the Qatar incident as well as other instances of corruption, money laundering, fraud, and bribery.



### ***Corruption in Club Football; Financial Fair Play***

Funnily enough, his successor, Gianni Infantino, has not helped FIFA's image as corruption has continued with another clear example being allegations of Infantino helping two sheikh-owned French and English clubs, Paris Saint-Germain F.C. and Manchester City F.C., skip financial fair play regulations. This allowed both clubs to spend more money than they would have otherwise been allowed to, thereby gaining a competitive advantage.



### ***Corruption in Club Football; Match Fixing***

Moving on to match fixing, eastern European association football leagues have been the biggest victims. An example of match fixing in this part of the world that happened quite recently was Ukrainian football club Metalist Kharkiv's expulsion from the 2013-2014 season's champions league due to a match fixing scandal that took place during the 2007-2008's edition of the Ukrainian Premier League. The Court of Arbitration for Sport upheld UEFA's (Union of European Football Associations) guilty ruling on a fixed match between Metalist Kharkiv and Karpaty Lviv which ended with a score of 4-0 for Metalist. There were consequences for both sides, namely, both clubs were fined \$25,000, six players were banned for between three and five years, Metalist were stripped of their third-placed finish and their then sporting director, Yevhen Krasnikov was banned from association football activity for five years and was given a \$10,000 fine.



### ***Corruption in the Olympic Games; Doping***

Performance enhancing drugs have been used in the Olympics for over a hundred years. Most recently, Russia was banned from participating in “major international sporting events” from 2020 to 2024 (this was later reduced to two years.) This all started off in 2017 where authorities were accused of helping to cover up drug abuse, including while Russia hosted the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. This led to RUSADA (Russian Anti-Doping Agency) being handed a three-year suspension which was later controversially lifted by WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency.) One of the conditions on this decision to lift the suspension was full disclosure of testing data from a laboratory in Moscow. Russia failed to hand this over in time and when they finally did, “thousands” of results were altered or destroyed. This led to the aforementioned two-year ban.



## Major Parties Involved and Their Views

### United Kingdom

In 2016, there was a child sexual abuse scandal involving the abuse of children in the football clubs of the UK. Former professional players talked about their own past experiences with abuse involving former coaches. The Sheldon review (independent reviewer) recently found multiple institutional failings in the clubs themselves.

### England

Not to be confused with the UK child sexual abuse scandals described above.

In 2016, an undercover video was posted which showcases former England manager Sam Allardyce. He is shown speaking with fictitious Asian businessmen, demonstrating how to get around FIFA bans on third party ownership of football players. Despite all of the size of the scandals, Sam Allardyce is still in the business of sports and is the manager of Premier League club West Bromwich Albion



## **The United States of America**

The U.S has had numerous scandals involving American football over the years. For example in 2005, there was a scandal involving the Minnesota Vikings, an American Football team. Where multiple players were complicit in sex-related criminal activity.

## **Brazil**

There was a corruption case involving the 2014 World Cup held in Brazil and the company Odebrecht. The case centers on the inflation on the prices of a stadium by 12 million dollars. The man in charge of the company at the time, Marcelo Odebrecht was in jail involving another corruption scandal but denied the charges and said he would appeal.

## **Russia**

Doping in Russian sports has come at the price of 47 Olympic medals, the most taken away from competitors in any country. This is a special case of doping because the drugs and steroids were supplied to the competitors by the state. Russia also has the most numbers of competitors caught doping during the competition, more than 200 in fact.

## **UN Involvement**

The United Nations has combated this issue by adopting [resolution 7/8](#) on Corruption in Sport by the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its seventh session, held in Vienna in 2017.

The United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crime states the following on sports and corruption on their website, "As these threats have been identified and publicised,

there is growing recognition that more efforts need to be undertaken and resources devoted to tackle them effectively. While many national initiatives are underway, there is also a realisation that many of the most profitable illicit and illegal activities involve a strong international dimension. Taking this into consideration, States, sports organizations and related stakeholders are looking to use and enhance international frameworks to address these risks."

## Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event	Sports Corruption Effects:
1994	Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan (USA) at the Winter Olympics.	This was a massive scandal in the 90's that forever changed the sport of ice skating.
2003	United Nations Convention against Corruption	The only legally binding international anti-corruption treaty. Including 140 signatories from different nations.
2005	Vikings boat-party scandal	Put into question the legitimacy and the reputation of a beloved team.
2007	McLaren-Ferrari espionage scandal	A set of accusations among Formula One racing teams that secret technical information had been shared between the two teams.
2008	Russia doping scandal at the Olympics	The doping of multiple Russian athletes cost the nation 47 Olympic medals.

2013	Lance Armstrong admits to using doping throughout his cycling career.	Said to be one of the most famous cases in sports corruption and doping in history.
2015	2015 FIFA corruption case	Exposed the corruption within a huge and famous organisation such as FIFA.

## Past International Action

### UNODC Resolution 8/4 on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Resolution 7/8 on corruption in sport

In December, 2019, resolution 8/4 on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption was adopted by the Eighth Session of the Conference of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in Abu Dhabi. This resolution has been agreed to by 187 governments to this day. In November, 2017, resolution 7/8 on corruption in sport, was adopted by the Seventh Session of the Conference of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in Vienna. This resolution has also been agreed to by 187 governments to this day.

### United Nations Convention Against Corruption

On the 9th of December, 2003, the UNCAC was signed by 140 nations and made effective on the 14th of December in 2005. The document outlined the importance of preventive measures and measures to punish corruption. It focuses mainly on international cooperation.

### INTERPOL Match-Fixing Task Force (IMFTF)

"Brings together law enforcement agencies from around the world to tackle match-fixing and corruption in sport" (INTERPOL) The task force has a network of 98 member units, allowing the network to act as a border crossing one. Meaning that it is able to act in and advise for international cooperation surrounding sports corruption.

## Possible Solutions

Corruption in sport is a broad topic that runs quite deeply in the essence of what sports are. A perfect solution may be very hard to find but some aspects that said solution might include could be increased transparency from sporting associations such as FIFA, the olympic games, among others. Another solution could relate to drug testing. It should be improved to make it more frequent, specific, and efficient. A wider range of substances should be tested for and detected. Another part of said drug solution could include testing the best performers on any given day. Sporting association leaders could also be required to publish their financial transactions. This should make them more hesitant when they think about accepting any under the table dealings with specific teams, players, or countries.



## Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

There is a strong link between our issue and SDG #16; Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Although, sports corruption and corruption in general is a crime that will affect many other aspects of a community/country. For example, corruption may be more centered around Justice (Goal 16) or it could be seen through the lense of Infrastructure (Goal 9). Flaws in the transparency and honesty of a government often result in "collateral damage" which could be seen for example in the quality of houses.

Nevertheless, Goal 16 has the strongest links to the topic of sports corruption. The goal further details that their mission is to, "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels." We look forward to working with delegates to draft resolutions that can assure that sports institutions are being held accountable and reduce crime related to them.



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## Useful Links for Research

### I. **Country profile:**

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

Helpful for some basic facts and information about your delegation.

### II. **UN Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)**

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session7/UNCAC -  
Corruption in Sport resolution.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session7/UNCAC_-_Corruption_in_Sport_resolution.pdf)

The United Nations resolution on Sports

TIP: Make sure you look for your allies/enemies positions on this issue! UN Resolutions are super helpful to keep in mind the international relations while keeping in mind your own countries position.

### III. **Article: What leads to corruption in sports?**

<https://moneysmartathlete.com/2020/08/26/what-leads-to-corruption-in-sports/>

A very interesting article with some good, basic information about major sports corruption events.