

Forum: Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Issue # ... : Addressing corruption in Sports.

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Introduction

Sports are a vital part of our lives. It is an activity in which we can all partake without taking into account our age, race, culture, physique, and skill. Not only are sports very good for your physical and mental health but they are also a test of responsibility, discipline, integrity, fairness, respect, and teamwork. Sadly there are some individuals who don't always respect the rules and damage the integrity and fairness of the sport in illegal ways. This is called corruption in sports and it is a major problem.

Corruption in Sports dates back to the year 388 B.C. where a boxer called Eupolus of Thessaly bribed 3 of his opponents to let him win. This in fact led to all four men getting fined pretty harshly but still, corruption in sports has always been present. Throughout the years it is noticeable sports have been evolving at a rapid pace and the number of athletes is growing exponentially. With the number of athletes growing, corruption in sports is having many more challenges and opportunities for corruption.

Corruption in sports can partake in many different ways like bribing a referee before a match, determining the outcome of the match beforehand and placing a bet, taking performance enhancing drugs to boost your performance,

or simply breaking a rule and not telling anybody. This is a common theme in many sports and that is why we are discussing and debating this topic.

Definition of Key Terms

FIFA

FIFA stands for Federation Internationale de Football Association. It is the governing body for many international soccer tournaments, with the most known, the World Cup.

Corruption

The dishonest or illegal behavior especially from powerful people, such as governments or officials

Bribing

Is the action of trying to make someone do something for your own benefit by offering them money, presents, or something they want

Anabolic steroids

A synthetic steroid hormone that resembles testosterone by causing muscle and bone growth. Such hormones are illegally used by athletes before competitions to treat their physical performance.

Bookmakers

These are people who accept bets on particular results and pay out winnings.

General Overview

Major Causes of Sports Corruption

As a multi-billion dollar industry, sports are prone to be affected by all types of corruption. It is not a new concept to the industry. Corruption has

happened ever since the ancient Olympic Games when athletes accepted bribes to lose matches, until recently when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) acquired bribes in the forms of money, gifts, and even college tuitions for athletes. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), some of the main reasons that sports corruption takes place are the non-existent or lack of legislation, inactive and inadequate cooperation between parties, illegal activities linked to sports, and the lack of resources to address and penalize criminals. Planning and organizing a “highly-publicized and internationally anticipated major public event,” is filled with risks (UNODC 4). Any mishap may influence the financial, political, and economic aspects of the parties involved. The intensive environment creates high-risk conditions prone to corruption. In particular, large-scale sporting events with low levels of accountability and transparency. The planning of events is habitually designated to low-skilled agencies correlated to social and political parties. The team’s inexperience builds onto the risk of corruption as unlimited responsibility and funds are disposed of to organizers who may not be apt for the job. Usually, these planners are new, untested, or improvised. Subsequently, methods of monitoring and decision-taking deviate from accepted policies and certified practices. The low level of administration and transparency paired with relationships between stakeholders, business people, and the media lead to corruption in various sporting events.

Corruption is not only limited to major figures but also athletes who anticipate victories and prizes such as money. The collective goal to succeed and the anticipation for enhancing performance allow athletes to be driven towards such a path. Contestants who compete continue searching for ways to have advantages over other competitors in order to achieve money, respect, and success.

Major Methods of Corruption in Sports

Various approaches are used by criminals to surpass the law and accomplish violations of sport regulations. The main forms include but are not limited to bribery, match-fixing, betting, doping, spot-fixing, and small "tricks". All of these methods were and remain grave violations of The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and UNODC views on corruption in sports.

Bribery is a particularly traditional type of crime in the sports industry. It includes paying athletes to underperform, paying referees to misjudge games, host bribery, etc. Recent reports by the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) indicate that paying for the right of hosting the event allows the world to recognize how sports associations have become corrupt bribers. A major bribery scandal in sports was the French football bribery scandal which occurred in 1992/93. Coordinators of the French club Olympique Marseille paid players in the opposition to participate poorly in the final matches of the championship, guaranteeing the team the win.

Oppositely, match-fixing and spot-fixing are sports-adapted types of corruption. According to the Oxford Dictionary, match-fixing is defined as "the action or practice of dishonestly determining the outcome of a match before it is played." Spot-fixing, on the other hand, is a predetermined action done by players to benefit gamblers. A large part of this crime involves betting and non-betting cases. Betting cases involve gaining a victory for monetary and economic gain for all parties involved. Non-betting circumstances have the primary aim to earn a sporting advantage.

Betting in itself is also a controversial type of gambling in sports. Although legal in some countries, the main issue stands with how ethical it truly is. Most betting is carried through bookmakers who operate for crime organizations and internet betting. Bettors assume that competitors do perform to the best ability during games. The indication that a player may be "taking it easy" may harm the gameplay seriously. As many sports began gaining popularity during the 19th century, betting grew with the industry. According to Britannica, "most

involved bribing athletes to lose matches purposely,” and included other types of bribery.

Most commonly known as doping, performance-enhancing drugs are one of the most common and controversial topics in the sports industry. These drugs as such have the potential and ability to change the human body and its conditions. Including how professionals may improve their performance during sporting events. However, these drugs are especially disastrous for the health of competitors. The Russian doping scandal in the 2008 Olympics, is a major example in which 14 out of 31 Russian athletes were caught using anabolic steroids to increase their performance in the games. This resulted in a ban for Russian Athletes by which they could not compete under the Russian flag for an extended period of time.

Most importantly, the dishonesty portrayed by athletes and small “tricks” that allow players to cheat. An example of this is the Houston Astros 2018 sign stealing scandal during the 2017 and 2018 seasons. Where the Baseball team Astros utilized cameras in home games to look at hints given between the pitcher (the player that throws the baseball) and the catcher (the player that catches the baseballs not hit by the hitter) to warn their hitter, by banging on a trashcan, of the pitch that was to be thrown, as a consequence, the hitter was able to perfectly execute each hit. The team won the world series that season. When rumors surfaced, and the team was caught, they were fined 5 million dollars, and were stripped of their 2020 and 2021 draft picks.

Prosecution of Sports Corruption

Both national and international organizations endorse their type of regulations and the enforcement of them through several systems. Most aiming to guarantee the correct application of practices of the sport. Although the Report of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention

against Corruption does address sports corruption and urges its member states to terminate all acts of corruption, there is no guarantee that members will continue to enforce the clauses. Due to the transparency of corruption in sports, the actions to hide them through major bodies, and the low recognition of the topic, there is no assurance that countries and stakeholders do oblige by these rules.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Qatar

Qatar was involved in a series of allegations stating that the country had bribed FIFA. Qatar was accused of paying 880 million dollars in total to FIFA in order to win the hosting rights for the year 2022. It was reported that Qatar offered 480 million dollars to FIFA three weeks before the organization announced that the State of Qatar would host the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Additionally, a television contract worth 400 million dollars was signed between the Qatari government-owned broadcaster, Al Jazeera, and FIFA.

Russia

Russia has been surrounded by multiple doping scandals in different sporting events. Russia was banned from participating in international sporting events for four years by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on December 16, 2019, due to evidence of manipulating doping test samples. Russia is accused of swapping tainted samples for clean ones through a hole in the wall of the laboratory during the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. The ban was reduced to two years in 2020 by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, but Russia was prevented from participating in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Brazil

Also known as the Mafia of the Whistle Scandal, referees Edilson Pereira de Carvalho and Paulo José Danelon were suspended by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), guilty of fixing multiple matches in 2005. Danelon confessed that he fixed three games in 2005 in the Paulista championship. He admitted getting paid around £2,500 per game and receiving approximately 30,000 reais [£7,500] in total for fixing the matches. Other than this event, Brazil has also been accused of stadium deals, corruption, and bribery, in the 2016 Olympics and 2014 World Cup.

Italy

The Calciopoli scandal in 2006 depicts a major issue of corruption in national football in Italy. The Italian police discovered a number of illegal telephone interceptions between team managers and referee organizations. They were accused of selecting referees who were favorable to a certain team and rigging the games to their benefit. Apart from this, there were more scandals related to national football in Italy later in 2011 and later years. Many football-related officials and players were arrested due to the allegations stating that they had fixed matches.

United States

The Black Sox Scandal of 1919 is a well-known example of corruption in sports in the US. In the MLB's 1919 World Series, the Chicago White Sox were competing against the Cincinnati Reds. Arnold Gandil from the White Sox persuaded a professional gambler friend to arrange a deal to spread a rumor about the series being fixed. Several other teammates from the White Sox also participated in this scheme. The sudden and strange betting pattern initiated an investigation which led to Eddie Cicotte and Joe Jackson - two of the players participating in the deal - confessing. The case ended with all eight players and five gamblers being implicated and the players were banned from major and minor league

baseball.

India

In the 2013 Indian Premier League, three cricketers from the Rajasthan Royals, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, Ajit Chandila, and Ankeet Chavan, were found to have spot-fixed the game. It was said that the players and bookies agreed to give away minimum amounts of runs, indicating when they would give those specific amounts of runs by using signs. After the start of the investigations, Sreesanth and Chavan confessed that Chandila tried to involve them in spot-fixing the game. The players were suspended and seventeen other people, with fourteen of them being bookies, were arrested by Delhi Police.

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

INTERPOL created the INTERPOL Match-Fixing Task Force (IMFTF) in 2011 to increase international cooperation in trying to tackle the issue of corruption seen in sports. The IMFTF presented the criminal information system project - ETICA - which aimed to gather information on corruption in sport and to share knowledge on the organized crime groups associated with match-fixing. INTERPOL also worked with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 2019 to organize international educational workshops on corruption in sports.

International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport (IPACS)

The IPACS brings together many relevant organizations like the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Council of Europe (COE), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and multiple other sports organizations. It was created in 2017 to bring numerous institutions together with the ultimate goal of tackling corruption and ensuring integrity in sports. Argentina, China, France, Germany, Japan, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America are part of IPACS.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
388 B.C.	A boxer called Eupolus of Thessaly bribed three of his opponents to let him win which resulted in all of the four men getting fined harshly.
1919	In the famous Black Sox Scandal of the MLB's 1919 World Series, Arnold Gandil from the Chicago White Sox team persuaded a professional gambler friend to arrange a deal to spread a rumor about the series being fixed. All eight players and five gamblers part of the deal were implicated and the players were banned from major and minor league baseball.
2003	The United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) treaty was adopted by the UN General Assembly.
2005	Referees Edilson Pereira de Carvalho and Paulo José Danelon were suspended by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), guilty of fixing multiple matches in the Paulista championship.
2006	McLaren's Formula 1 team bought out illegal Ferrari documents from an insider to use on their car. The McLaren team was fined around 100 million dollars and was disqualified from the 2006 and 2007 Formula 1 constructors' championship.
2006	In the Calciopoli scandal of Italy, the Italian police discovered a number of illegal telephone calls between team managers and referee organizations. It was found that they selected referees who

were favorable to a certain team and rigged the games to their benefit.

2008

In the Russian doping scandal in the Olympics, 14 out of 31 Russian athletes were caught using anabolic steroids which resulted in a ban for Russian Athletes in which they couldn't compete under the Russian flag for a long time.

2010

The president and other executives at FIFA were paid millions of dollars to choose Qatar as the hosting country for FIFA 2022.

2011

INTERPOL created the INTERPOL Match-Fixing Task Force (IMFTF).

2013

In the Indian Premier League, three cricketers from the Rajasthan Royals - Shanthakumaran Sreesanth, Ajit Chandila, and Ankeet Chavan - were found to have spot-fixed the game. The players were suspended and seventeen other people, with fourteen of them being bookies, were arrested by the Delhi Police.

2013

The United Nations Convention against Corruption: A Strategy for Safeguarding against Corruption in Major Public Events was held from the UNODC. At this event, they created a special handbook to help implement anti corruption safeguards.

2016

The Global Corruption Report on sports was published. It consists of more than 60 contributions from governments, multilateral institutions, sponsors to leading experts in the fields of corruption, to supporters and the wider anti-corruption movement.

- 2018 The Houston Astros used cameras in home games to look at signs and bang on a trash can to signal their hitter so they were prepared for the pitch that was coming.
- 2019 Russia was banned from participating in international sporting events for four years by the World Anti-Doping Agency for swapping tainted samples for clean ones through a hole in the wall of the laboratory during the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.
- 2019 INTERPOL worked with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to organize international educational workshops on corruption in sports.
- 2020 Russia's ban was reduced to two years by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, but Russia was prevented from participating in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in October 2003, by Resolution 58/4. It is the only legally binding international anti-corruption multilateral treaty and recognizes both the importance of preventive and punitive measures. This convention covers 5 main areas: preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement, asset recovery, technical assistance and information exchange, and international cooperation. It aims to reduce the many different types of corruption that are currently occurring across country borders, as well as corruption in private sectors. The treaty was open for signature in Merida,

Yucatan, Mexico from the 9 to the 11 of December in 2003. It was signed by 140 countries, and as of May 2020, there are 187 parties included which address 181 of the UN Member states, the Cook Islands, Niue, the Holy See, the State of Palestine, and the European Union. The United Nations Convention against Corruption: A Strategy for Safeguarding against Corruption in Major Public Events, a convention held in September 2013 from the UNODC created a special handbook to help implement anti corruption safeguards.

The global corruption report (GCR) Sport is a handbook dedicated to ideas and to ways different sports can prevent corruption. It is a free document in which sporting directors and high up executives can write and can talk about ideas, implementations, or really anything on corruption in sports.

Past action

United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in October 2003, by Resolution 58/4. It is the only legally binding international anti-corruption multilateral treaty and recognizes both the importance of preventive and punitive measures. This convention covers 5 main areas: preventive measures, criminalization and law enforcement, asset recovery, technical assistance and information exchange, and international cooperation. It aims to reduce the many different types of corruption that are currently occurring across country borders, as well as corruption in private sectors. The treaty was open for signature in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico from the 9 to the 11 of December in 2003. It was signed by 140 countries, and as of May 2020, there are 187 parties included which address 181 of the UN Member states, the Cook Islands, Niue, the Holy See, the State of Palestine, and the European Union.

INTERPOL: Match-Fixing Task Force (IMFTF).

The IMFTF aims to join together worldwide law enforcement agencies to tackle match-fixing corruption in sports. Match-fixing corruption is the dishonesty that sports teams carry to make sure that they win a particular match. It currently has 98 member units from jurisdictions in five continents and more than 151 national points of contact globally. This action allows the task to act as a cross-border investigation platform, with international case coordination and regular meetings. Caused by the global outreach, the IMFTF is uniquely used to connect criminal investigative units in the worldwide INTERPOL member countries and relevant Integrity Units from the main International Sporting Federations to conjoint any wrongdoing in sport.

INTERPOL training with the IOC

The INTERPOL offered a joint building program and training project with the International Olympic Committee to combat competition manipulation. INTERPOL is an international organization with the aim to support police and law enforcement agencies in their efforts to prevent crime and conduct criminal investigations as efficiently and effectively as possible. The INTERPOL organization offers investigative support such as forensics, assistance in locating fugitives, training, and deep analysis. The program that the IOC and INTERPOL established provides tailored training and workshops for law enforcement, sports, betting operators, and government agencies to enhance the damage of sports corruption. These projects have been launched worldwide such as in Japan, London, Germany, Brazil, etc. and include a two-day event.

Law enforcement investigator training

The provided training includes law enforcement with skills to investigate sports corruption, deepen on transnational investigations, evidence collection and evaluation, betting monitoring, and the key role of the IMFTF.

Sports investigators training

Focuses on investigative techniques typical of police work such as interview skills and information collection and evaluation, with the integrity of monitoring and analysis of sports betting. The training develops capacity in sports organizations to investigate and be able to identify corruption in sports.

Integrity in sport workshops and webinars

These workshops have the ideal aim to conjoint national and regional stakeholders to raise awareness, identify best practices and establish cooperation to address sports manipulation.

The Global Corruption Report (GCR)

The Global Corruption Report on sports is the first comprehensive publication of sports corruption to date. It consists of more than 60 contributions from governments, multilateral institutions, sponsors to leading experts in the fields of corruption, to supporters and the wider anti-corruption movement. This report provides in depth analysis for the understanding of corruption in sports, aiming at sports governance, business in sport, and match-fixing. The report highlights the work that has been done in the present and the new approaches that will take place in the future within the integrity of sports. It is a handbook where executives have the opportunity to write and discuss their ideas on the implementation to prevent corruption in sports.

Possible Solutions

Issues such as corruption in sports are difficult to address due to transparency, or lack thereof, and the connection between sports, influential politicians, and stakeholders. Furthermore, in some cases, addressing the issue relies on international cooperation, producing a more profound concern to

solve. Nevertheless, INTERPOL and the UNODC do provide numerous recommendations on how to deter and prosecute crimes committed in both major and smaller sporting events. Mainly with the help of organizations and relevant initiatives such as the UNODC, INTERPOL, and IPACS. Laws, regulations, and guidelines could be worked on and redefined to penalize and prevent corruption. Supplementary resolutions could be added in order to increase policing, spread awareness, ensure that resources are correctly utilized, ensure regulations are correctly applied and create national and international frameworks. Solving this issue requires international collaboration and national consciousness.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

This issue links to the 11th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of sustainable cities and communities. The main aim of this SDG is to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Although they might seem like two entirely different topics, they are connected in some ways. By addressing corruption in sports we can find ways to solve this problem and make sports fairer and safer. As mentioned in multiple sections of this Issue Bulletin, corruption in sports can be connected to high officials in the country, recognized figures in sports organizations, and even gamblers. By debating about this topic and determining the problems of this issue, we can work together to try to make individual cities, countries, and even the world's sports industry safer and better.

Appendix

- I. Deep and straightforward report on United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC):

https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/Publications/Convention/08-50026_E.pdf

- II. Ancient History of Corruption in Sports (this will help you understand how the situation continued and expanded nowadays):
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/ancient-history-cheating-olympics-180960003/>
- III. “Corruption in sport: From the playing field to the field of policy” (this will guide you through the different types of sport corruption):
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1016/j.polsoc.2015.04.002#:~:text=While%20bribery%20in%20sport%20can,to%20expect%20gifts%20and%20favours.>
- IV. INTERPOL's views on corruption in sports:
<https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Corruption/Corruption-in-sport>
- V. Dictionary, helpful for definitions:
<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/fifa>
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/corruption>
- VI. Good PDF for Corruption in Sports:
https://www.pacmuners.com/uploads/1/0/7/6/107627743/unodc_1.pdf
http://asp-edu.net/pamun/pamun2013/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/OK_EDITED_-UNODC-Sports-corruption.pdf
- VII. INTERPOL's views on corruption in sports:
<https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Corruption/Corruption-in-sport>
- VIII. About the INTERPOL Match-Fixing Task Force (IMFTF):
<https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2020/E-sports-keeping-crime-out-of-video-game-competitions>
<https://www.interpol.int/es/Noticias-y-acontecimientos/Noticias/2018/INTERPOL-Match-Fixing-Task-Force-closes-ranks-on-organized-crime>
- IX. INTERPOL collaboration with IOC:

<https://www.interpol.int/content/download/13643/file/INTERPOL-IOC-GCB-TP-Integrity-in-Sport.pdf>

<https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2019/INTERPOL-and-IOC-regional-workshop-on-sports-integrity>

X. INTERPOL purpose:

<https://www.interpol.int/en/Who-we-are/What-is-INTERPOL>

XI. IPACS - which countries and organizations are part and what it is:

<https://www.ipacs.sport/>

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/ipacs>

XII. Cases of corruption in sports in different countries - Qatar, US, and India:

<https://www.firmex.com/resources/blog/the-5-most-corrupt-sports-deals-of-all-time/>

<https://www.therichest.com/sports/top-10-alleged-match-fixing-bribery-scandals-in-sports-history/>

XIII. Qatar FIFA 2022 corruption:

<https://qrius.com/qatars-2022-fifa-world-cup-controversies-galore/>

XIV. Russia ban from sporting events:

<https://time.com/5746344/russia-banned-olympics-2019/>

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/olympics/55349156.amp>

XV. Brazil match-fixing in football and corruption in Olympic and World Cup:

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2017/apr/23/brazil-olympic-world-cup-corruption-bribery>

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2005/sep/30/newsstory.sport7>

XVI. India cricket spot-fixing:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-22549897>

XVII. Italy Calciopoli Scandal:

<https://sites.psu.edu/unmeshdatta138h/2017/04/21/the-greatest-scandal-to-ever-occur-the-calciopoli-scandal-of-2006/>

XVIII. Ancient History of Corruption in Sports:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/ancient-history-cheating-olympics-180960003/>

XIX. "What leads to corruption in sports?":

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

XX. Corruption in the IOC:

<https://www.britannica.com/sports/Olympic-Games/Corruption>

XXI. "Corruption in sport: From the playing field to the field of policy" (types of corruption):

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1016/j.polsoc.2015.04.002>

XXII. Betting in sports:

https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/sport/library/studies/study-sports-fraud-final-version_en.pdf

XXIII. Gambling in Sports:

<https://www.britannica.com/sports/sports/Gambling-and-sports>

XXIV. Effect of drugs in sports:

<https://www.usada.org/athletes/substances/effects-of-performance-enhancing-drugs/>

XXV. UN Preventing corruption in sports:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/07/COVID-19-and-Anti-Corruption-for-distribution.pdf>

XXVI. United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC):

https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/Publications/Convention/08-50026_E.pdf

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/uncac.html>

XXVII. Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption:

<https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/COSP/session7/V1708295E.pdf>

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/COSP/conference-of-the-states-parties.html>

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