



INTERPOL

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

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INVESTIGATIONS

Malta

Qala Saints FC and two players to be charged with match fixing

In Malta, Qala Saints FC and players are facing match-fixing charges by the Malta FA Integrity Unit following an investigation into their alleged attempt to bribe a Nadur Youngsters player during a Division One match. The players and club have been temporarily suspended pending a hearing, with potential legal consequences including criminal charges and prison sentences under Malta's laws against manipulation of sport.

Source: 15 June 2024, Times of Malta

Football

<https://timesofmalta.com/article/qala-saints-fc-two-players-charged-match-fixing.1093974>

United States

Jontay Porter Scandal: Fourth Man Arrested in NBA Spot-Fixing Probe

In the United States, the fourth man has been arrested in connection with an NBA spot-fixing scandal involving former Toronto Raptors forward Jontay Porter, who conspired with others to bet on games knowing he would exit early due to purported injuries.

Source: 10 June 2024, Casino

Basketball

<https://www.casino.org/news/jontay-porter-scandal-fourth-man-arrested-in-nba-spot-fixing-probe/>

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

Czech Republic

Former deputy head of Czech soccer association gets suspended sentence in a match-fixing scandal

Former Czech Football Association deputy head and several other soccer officials received sentences related to a match-fixing scandal, with Berbr receiving a three-year suspended sentence and a fine. The verdict, issued in Plzen, Czech Republic, included penalties for bribery, embezzlement, and involvement in organized crime, stemming from matches fixed in lower-tier leagues in 2019 and 2020.

Source: 19 June 2024, Yahoo Sports

Football

Singapore

Jail for Singapore mastermind who bribed players to fix overseas basketball matches

A Singaporean man was sentenced to over two years in jail for orchestrating and funding bribes to fix basketball matches in Thailand and the Philippines, while his accomplice, Poh Wei Hao, received an eight-month sentence. Koa and Poh manipulated match outcomes to profit from online bets, involving players like Ian Sanggalang and Almond Pineda Vosotros, with successful fixes leading to substantial bribes being paid to the players involved.

Source: 13 June 2024, The Straits Times

Basketball

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/courts-crime/jail-for-singapore-mastermind-who-bribed-players-to-fix-overseas-basketball-matches>

Uganda

FIFA extends bans on 7 Ugandans implicated in match-fixing scandals

FIFA has extended bans on seven Ugandan individuals involved in match-fixing scandals during the 2023/2024 season. This includes two referees receiving 10-year bans each, and five players receiving five-year bans each, as confirmed by the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA).

Source: 15 June 2024, The Independent

Football

<https://www.independent.co.uk/fifa-extends-bans-on-7-ugandans-implicated-in-match-fixing-scandals/>

Uganda

Thirteen banned as Uganda breaks football fixing ring

The Uganda Football Federation (Fufa) has banned 13 individuals, including 10 referees, following the discovery of a match-fixing syndicate based in South Africa, assisted by FIFA. This crackdown, initiated after evidence emerged from multiple sources and investigations, underscores Fufa's commitment to combatting match-fixing.

Source: 19 June 2024, BBC Sport

Football

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/ckmm3ev3mpzo>

United States

MLB player given life ban for betting on own team

In the United States, MLB infielder Tucupita Marcano has been banned for life for placing 387 bets on baseball, including 231 on MLB games, while playing for the Pittsburgh Pirates, wagering over \$150,000 in total. Separately, Oakland Athletics pitcher Michael Kelly has been banned for one year for placing bets on nine MLB games, with MLB emphasizing the importance of strict gambling rules to protect game integrity.

Source: 4 June 2024, BBC Sport

Baseball

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/baseball/articles/ce774146pr3o>

BETTING

United States

Brooklyn Man Arrested for Illegal Sports Betting Scheme Involving National Basketball Association Player

In the United States, Long Phi Pham has been charged with conspiring to defraud a sports betting company by placing bets on NBA player performance, using insider knowledge that the player would prematurely withdraw from games on January 26 and March 20, 2024. Pham and his co-conspirators, who remain at large, made over \$1 million in profits from the scheme, and if convicted, Pham faces up to 20 years in prison.

Source: 4 June 2024, United States Attorneys Office

Basketball

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/brooklyn-man-arrested-illegal-sports-betting-scheme-involving-national-basketball>

ODDS AND ENDS

Global

ESIC and International Olympic Committee join forces to combat misconduct in esports

The Esports Integrity Commission (ESIC) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) have formalized a collaboration to share information and best practices to combat corruption and misconduct in esports. ESIC will serve as a specialist advisory body to the IOC, helping to ensure the integrity of esports competitions, especially as the IOC plans to organize its own esports events.

Source: 5 June 2024, ESsports Insider

eSports

<https://esportsinsider.com/2024/06/esic-international-olympic-committee-esports>

Global

Genius Sports and IBIA establish global sports integrity partnership

Genius Sports and the International Betting Integrity Association (IBIA) have formed a partnership to share information on suspicious betting activity and collaborate on anti-match-fixing efforts globally. This alliance will enhance transparency over global betting patterns and strengthen integrity measures, with Genius Sports becoming an Associate member of IBIA, benefiting from its extensive sports and integrity relationships.

Source: 12 June 2024, Genius Sport

<https://geniussports.com/newsroom/genius-sports-and-ibia-establish-global-sports-integrity-partnership/>

INTEGRITY IN SPORT EVENTS

Global

Third annual meeting of the MARS Network

The MARS Network, established by the Council of Europe's EPAS, aims to enhance international collaboration among prosecutors and judges in tackling corruption and financial crimes in sports. At its recent annual meeting held at the INTERPOL General Secretariat in Lyon, France, discussions focused on combating money laundering through channels such as betting, multi-club ownership, and sport agents, highlighting these as significant threats to the integrity of sports globally.

Source: 18 June 2024, Council of Europe

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/-/third-annual-meeting-of-the-mars-network>

MATCH FIXING

Bhutan

Daga United taken to ACC for alleged match-fixing scandal

The Bhutan Football Federation (BFF) has reported Daga United FC to the Anti-Corruption Commission for alleged match-fixing, following an investigation by its Integrity Division and Genius Sports. The investigation found suspicious behavior and betting patterns in matches against Paro FC and Tensung FC, leading to the suspension of three foreign players and further legal proceedings.

Source: 13 June 2024, BBS

Football

<https://www.bbs.bt/news/?p=204929>

CORRUPTION

Iran

Ex-Head of Iran's Football Referee Committee Arrested on Corruption Charges

In Iran, the former head of the football federation referees' committee, has been arrested on corruption charges, accused of accepting bribes to manipulate match outcomes. The investigation, prompted by a complaint from the National Iranian Copper Industries against the Mes Rafsanjan club, has also led to the arrest of several others, implicating three additional clubs and former officials of the Iran Football League organization.

Source: 5 June 2024, Iran International

Football

<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202406054311>



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