



# INTERPOL

## INTEGRITY IN SPORT

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Photos International Olympic Committee

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## INVESTIGATIONS

### Australia

#### Three A-League soccer players arrested over alleged betting corruption - Strike Force Beaconview

In Australia, three A-League players have been arrested in connection with an investigation into alleged betting corruption by the Organised Crime Squad under Strike Force Beaconview, which focused on yellow card manipulation during games played in November and December 2023, with alleged failed attempts in April and May 2024.

Source: 17 May 2024, NSW Police Force

Football

[https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/news/news?sq\\_content\\_src=%2BdXJsPW0dHBzJTNBJTJGJZGZwJpenByZC5wb2xpY2UubnN3Lmdvdi5hdSUyRm1lZGlhJTJGMTEExOTg5Lmh0bWwmYWxsPTE%3D](https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/news/news?sq_content_src=%2BdXJsPW0dHBzJTNBJTJGJZGZwJpenByZC5wb2xpY2UubnN3Lmdvdi5hdSUyRm1lZGlhJTJGMTEExOTg5Lmh0bWwmYWxsPTE%3D)

### Sri Lanka

#### Legends Trophy Fixing : New Court update

In Sri Lanka, the Matale Magistrate's Court has barred Indian cricket manager Yoni Patel from leaving the country due to match-fixing allegations during the 2024 Legends Cricket Trophy, ordering his passport to be surrendered and informing immigration authorities of the travel ban.

Source: 15 May 2024, Newswires

Cricket

<https://www.newswire.lk/2024/05/15/legends-trophy-fixing-new-court-update/>

### United States

#### Shohei Ohtani gambling scandal: Interpreter Ipppei Mizuhara to plead guilty, faces up to 33 years in prison

Former Dodgers interpreter Ipppei Mizuhara has agreed to plead guilty to bank fraud and false tax return charges for stealing nearly \$17 million from Shohei Ohtani to fund illegal bets, facing a maximum sentence of 33 years in prison.

Source: 14 May 2024, CBS Sports

Basketball

<https://www.cbssports.com/mlb/news/shohei-ohtani-gambling-scandal-interpreter-ipppei-mizuhara-to-plead-guilty-faces-up-to-33-years-in-prison/>

## SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

### Austria

#### Austrian wheelchair tennis player fined

Austrian wheelchair tennis player Nico Langmann has accepted a sanction for breaching tennis' betting sponsorship rules, receiving a two-month suspended ban and a \$10,000 fine. Langmann cooperated fully with the investigation, withdrew from the arrangement with the betting operator upon ITIA contact, and the violation was deemed inadvertent without any suggestion of corrupt behavior.

Source: 14 May 2024, ITIA

Tennis

<https://itia.tennis/news/sanctions/austrian-wheelchair-tennis-player-nico-langmann-fined/>

### ITIA

#### Two tennis players sanctioned under Tennis Anti-Corruption Program

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) has imposed sanctions on two tennis players following a match-fixing investigation in Belgium, resulting in a lifetime ban and \$250,000 fine for Bolivian Alejandro Mendoza Crespo, and a three-year suspension and \$10,000 fine for Peruvian Jorge Panta Herreros.

Source: 10 May 2024, ITIA

Tennis

<https://itia.tennis/news/sanctions/alejandro-mendoza-and-jorge-panta-sanctioned-under-tennis-anti-corruption-program/>

### Italy

#### Italian tennis player suspended

Italian tennis player Emanuele Bastia has been suspended for four months and two weeks for wagering on tennis, violating the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, and fined \$5,000, with \$2,500 suspended.

Source: 15 May 2024, ITIA

Tennis

<https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/italian-tennis-player-emanuele-bastia-suspended/>

### Venezuela

#### Venezuelan official banned for life

Venezuelan tennis official Armando Belardi has been banned for life and fined \$75,000 for 26 breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, including facilitating wagering and match-fixing.

Source: 20 May 2024, ITIA

Tennis

## ODDS AND ENDS

### Council of Europe

#### The Group of Copenhagen publishes its 2022-2023 activity report

The Group of Copenhagen's 2022-2023 activity report highlights progress in combating sport competition manipulation, with increased match-fixing alerts and the establishment of working groups to enhance national platforms, alert processing, and cooperation with external partners, including initiatives such as FLAGS and MotivAction.

Source: 16 May 2024, Council of Europe

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/-/the-group-of-copenhagen-published-its-2022-2023-activity-report>

### United States

#### David Fletcher under MLB investigation for allegedly gambling with same illegal bookie as Ipppei Mizuhara

A former Los Angeles Angels infielder now with the Atlanta Braves minor league, is reportedly placed bets with Mathew Bowyer, the illegal bookmaker linked to the Ipppei Mizuhara scandal. Mizuhara, Ohtani's former interpreter, is accused of stealing over \$16 million from Ohtani to cover gambling debts, with Fletcher connected to the scandal through a poker game where Mizuhara met Bowyer, although Fletcher denies placing bets with Bowyer.

Source: 20 May 2024, CBS Sports

<https://www.cbssports.com/mlb/news/former-angels-player-david-fletcher-illegally-gambled-with-same-bookie-as-ippepe-mizuhara-per-report/>

## CORRUPTION

### Argentina

#### Agustin Torre: Former ATP tennis player banned for match-fixing

Argentinian tennis player Eduardo Agustin Torre has been suspended for five years and fined €35,000 for 35 breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program related to a match-fixing syndicate in Belgium. This sanction, effective until April 25, 2029, makes Torre the sixth Argentinian tennis player to be penalized for corruption.

Source: 11 May 2024, Inside the Games

Tennis

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1145218/tennis-agustin-torre-corruption-suspended>

### Iran

#### Iran football league rocked by major corruption scandal

The Iranian football community is reeling from a corruption scandal involving officials and media figures, leading to resignations and ongoing investigations, with senior officials implicated and linked to a top-flight club in Kerman Province, highlighting the need for a thorough cleansing process and transparent measures to restore trust in the sport and prevent further damage to its reputation.

Source: 19 May 2024, Persian Football

Football

<https://www.persianfootball.com/news/2024/05/19/iran-football-league-rocked-by-major-corruption-scandal-report/>

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