



Bi-weekly Bulletin

12-25 March 2024



Photos International Olympic Committee

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INVESTIGATIONS

Malta

Match between Gozo's top football teams faces match-fixing probe

In Malta, a first division football match is under investigation by police following reports of an offer to manipulate and loose on purpose. Media reports that a disciplinary procedure relating to the matter has been opened as well.

Source: 23 March 2024, Times of Malta

<https://timesofmalta.com/article/police-investigating-matchfixing-attempt-top-gfa-division-one-match.1089748>

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

China

Former China football chief given life sentence for 'huge' bribery

In China, the former chairman of the Chinese Football Association and former professional player, has been sentenced to life in prison for accepting bribes worth 11 million US dollars. The sentence follows a major crackdown on official graft and corruption in Chinese sports.

Source: 25 March 2024, Yahoo News

Football

https://sports.yahoo.com/news/former-china-football-chief-given-024213204.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xILmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAABG_hcZo8hBrL1-o86YPkM7IoSbN0evpvmg4a8IaUFUm8GQB9CQeGbGATjICXDNuUdeOwllhKD7tqf4GLEOjnH1JMxjEGEvwFLQXBG2P5bj_OyRgQSOacwM1QS35Sbs2IU6d5mzQ2i1WckaPLcS7JiSDe7c5wjeG8sFXuFS928BQ

Costa Rica

Costa Rica's Match-Fixing Scandal: Puerto Golfito FC Sanctioned

In Costa Rica, the disciplinary commission of the football federation sanctioned the club and its officials with a ten-year suspension for match fixing, following suspicious bet monitoring reports.

Source: 21 March 2024, Tico Times

Football

<https://ticotimes.net/2024/03/21/costa-ricas-match-fixing-scandal-puerto-golfito-fc-sanctioned>

Croatia

Croatian official suspended from tennis

Croatian tennis official Marko Stojanovic suspended for 5.5 years by ITIA for 15 breaches of Anti-Corruption Program, involving match data manipulation; accepting fine of \$25,000 with \$18,750 suspended, barred from officiating or attending ITIA-sanctioned tennis events until August 2029.

Source: 13 March 2024, ITIA

Tennis

<https://itia.tennis/news/sanctions/marko-stojanovic-suspended-from-tennis/>

Latvia

A 200-hour public service is awarded for trying to influence the Champions League game

In Latvia, the regional court sentenced an individual with 200 hours of public service for attempting to manipulate the result of a 2018 Champions League qualifying match. The individual offered unspecified amounts for a total number of goals scored in the match.

Source: 20 March 2024, Delfi Sports

Football

<https://www.delfi.lv/sports/16978250/futbols/120004760/par-meginajumu-ietekmet-cempionu-ligas-speles-rezultatu-piespriez-200-stundas-sabiedriskas-darba>

Nepal

Aadil Alam and four others cleared of spot-fixing charges in Nepal T20 League

In Nepal, 5 cricketers were cleared of spot-fixing charges by the public court due to a lack of evidence. A total of 12 players had been investigated and charged for spot-fixing during the Nepal T20 League 2022/23 season.

Source: 25 March 2024, CricNepal

Cricket

<https://www.cricnepal.com/aadil-alam-and-four-others-cleared-of-spot-fixing-charges-in-nepal-t20-league>

Sweden

Dragos Nicolae Madaras suspended from tennis

Swedish tennis player Dragos Nicolae Madaras suspended for four years and six months and fined \$2,500 by ITIA for refusing to cooperate with an investigation, passing his phone to brother Patrick, who also refused examination, resulting in suspensions for both under the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program.

Source: 14 March 2024, ITIA

<https://itia.tennis/news/sanctions/dragos-nicolae-madaras-suspended-from-tennis/>

BETTING

Brazil

Brazil's Senate opens new inquiry on soccer match-fixing

Brazil's Senate launches new inquiry into match-fixing in top soccer leagues following a previous investigation linking 26 individuals to criminal betting schemes. The inquiry follows a report indicating 109 matches in Brazil in 2023 were under suspicion of match-fixing, referencing an ongoing investigation revealing players allegedly offered money to perform specific actions during games.

Source: 12 March 2024, Galveston County The Daily News

Football

https://www.galvnews.com/news_ap/sports/brazils-senate-opens-new-inquiry-on-soccer-match-fixing/article_1c2b2df3-1276-50e9-a90b-1c0da77ee515.html

ODDS AND ENDS

Canada

White Paper Provides Key Recommendations to Address Competition Manipulation

A white paper by CCES and MGSS outlines recommendations to tackle competition manipulation in Canadian sports, emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts from stakeholders post-2023 Toronto symposium, advocating for a harmonized policy and comprehensive education program to safeguard sport integrity.

Source: 14 March 2024, CCES

www.cces.ca/news/white-paper-provides-key-recommendations-address-competition-manipulation

ITIA

International Tennis Integrity Agency Annual Review 2023

The number of suspicious tennis matches around the world went down for the second consecutive year, and there were none at any of the four Grand Slam tournaments in 2023, according to an annual review by the International Tennis Integrity Agency.

Source: 22 March 2024, ITIA Annual Report

Tennis

https://www.itia.tennis/media/4nvpixfe/itia_annualreview2023.pdf

Japan

Ohtani says he never bet on sports, 'shocked' interpreter stole money

In the United States, media reported that a famous Japanese baseball player had placed large bets with an illegal sports betting operator. In a press conference, the baseball player replied that the money was stolen and sent from his account by his former interpreter.

Source: 25 March 2024, ESPN

Baseball

https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/39808874/ohtani-adamant-never-betting-sports-says-interpreter-stole-money

Spain

INTERPOL Honoured as the Most Outstanding Institution in Responsible Gaming at the 6th Infoplay Awards

INTERPOL receives Most Outstanding Institution in Responsible Gaming award at the 6th Infoplay Awards in Madrid, recognized for its work combating corruption in sports and illegal betting through initiatives like the INTERPOL Match-Fixing Task Force and global awareness campaigns.

Source: 12 March 2024, Infoplay

<https://www.infoplay.info/en/infoigaming/interpol-honoured-as-the-most-outstanding-institution-in-responsible-gaming-at-the-6th-infoplay-awards/26935/news/>

United States

Ohtani says he never bet on sports, 'shocked' interpreter stole money

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Source: 25 March 2024, ESPN

Baseball

https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/39808874/ohtani-adamant-never-betting-sports-says-interpreter-stole-money

MATCH FIXING

Belgium

Westerlo coach fired after controversial draw against Genk

In Belgium, a first division football coach was let go with immediate effect, as his team and players settled for a draw and passed the ball around for minutes on end until the draw was secured, an outcome that arranged both sides. The Football Federation launched an investigation with players and teams risking hefty fines.

Source: 19 March 2024, Belga News Agency

Football

<https://www.belganewsagency.eu/westerlo-coach-fired-after-controversial-draw-against-genk>

Brazil

Palmeiras to sue Botafogo owner Textor over Brazilian league match-fixing allegations

Palmeiras plans legal action against Botafogo owner John Textor over unsubstantiated match-fixing accusations, citing defamation and irresponsible statements. Textor alleged corruption in Brazilian league refereeing, mentioning Palmeiras, prompting Palmeiras to express respect for Botafogo while condemning Textor's behavior.

Source: 12 March 2024, Inside World Football

Football

<https://www.insideworldfootball.com/2024/03/12/palmeiras-sue-botafogo-owner-textor-brazilian-league-match-fixing-allegations/>

China

China releases South Korean soccer star after a nearly 1-year detention over bribery suspicions

A soccer player from South Korea was released and returned home following a nearly one year detention over bribery allegations, according to South Korea's Foreign Ministry.

Source: 25 March 2024, Washington post

Football

https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2024/03/25/south-korea-china-soccer-son-jun-ho/a3f3cb0c-eea1-11ee-8f2c-380a821c02db_story.html

Peru

Grave denuncia en el fútbol peruano por arreglo de partidos: Hay audios y videos al respecto

Ex-FIFA referee Fernando Chappell alleges match-fixing in Peruvian football, presenting audios and videos implicating league officials, calling for immediate action and highlighting systemic corruption within the sport's administration, urging transparency despite fear of reprisal from entrenched interests.

Source: 17 March 2024, Bolavip

<https://bolavip.com/futbol-peru/grave-denuncia-en-el-futbol-peruano-por-arreglo-de-partidos-hay-audios-y-videos-al-respecto>

Rwanda

FERWafa vows crackdown on 'Juju' and match fixing

FERWafa pledges to crack down on match-fixing and witchcraft (Juju) in Rwandan football, emphasizing stringent measures and penalties outlined in regulations to combat such practices, aiming to enhance the sport's integrity and international reputation in the upcoming season.

Source: 16 March 2024, The New Times

<https://www.newtimes.co.rw/article/15296/sports/football/ferwafa-vows-crackdown-on-juju-and-match-fixing>

Sri Lanka

Court restricts departure of Legend Cricket League Team managers amid match-fixing allegations

Colombo court restricts departure of two Legend Cricket League team managers amid match-fixing allegations following complaints from former cricketers Upul Tharanga and Neil Broom, effective for one month. The order comes amidst ongoing tournament proceedings at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium.

Source: 18 March 2024, Lanka News Web

Cricket

<https://lankanewsweb.net/archives/53454/court-restricts-departure-of-legend-cricket-league-team-managers-amid-match-fixing-allegations/>

CORRUPTION

India

AFC seeks evidence of corruption charges against AIFF boss Kalyan Chaubey

AFC seeks evidence of corruption charges against AIFF boss Kalyan Chaubey" from the Times of India. The article discusses allegations of corruption against Kalyan Chaubey, the president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), and the Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) request for evidence regarding these charges.

Source: 14 March 2024, The Times of India

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/football/top-stories/afc-seeks-evidence-of-corruption-charges-against-aiff-boss-kalyan-chaubey/articleshow/108481374.cms>

Spain**Police raid the Spanish Football Federation offices over corruption allegations**

Spanish police raided the Spanish Football Federation offices over corruption allegations related to contracts signed by former president Luis Rubiales, involving moving the Spanish Super Cup to Saudi Arabia. Seven arrests were made, with investigations ongoing amidst a presidential election process and searches across Spain and Rubiales' residence in the Dominican Republic.

Source: 20 March 2024, Inside the Games

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1144317/police-raid-spanish-football-corruption>



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INTEGRITY IN SPORT