



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
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PROJECT

**Athlete Counsellors Against Match Fixing**

**ACAMF**

**Preliminary results from the research of the  
perception of match-fixing in sport among the sports  
public in the Republic of Macedonia**

June, 2021



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

From the beginning of 2021, the N. Macedonian Federation of School Sport participates in the realization of the project "Athlete Counsellors against match-fixing", funded by the EU Erasmus + program. Apart from NMSSF, ZFK Interblok from Slovenia (coordinator), the University of Murcia from Spain, the Rugby Federation from Serbia, the Volleyball Federation of Italy and ZFK Torres Sassari from Italy also participate as partners in this project. The key aims of the project are: strengthening awareness of the fight against match-fixing in sport, selection and training of athletes who would be involved as advisors in the fight against match-fixing and development of a program against match-fixing results that would be used as a model during the dissemination of the project results.

Within this project, a research on the perception of match-fixing in sport in the countries where the project partners come from was performed, for which an appropriate questionnaire was prepared by the University of Murcia, which was afterwards subject to completion and finalization with the participation of other partners. The questionnaire was completed based on the international standards, using similar tools for similar research. The text was intended to be understandable, which expected more relevant answers from the respondents. After the adoption of the questionnaire, a survey guidelines was prepared (Annex) through the Google Form application, and the target groups were defined.

During May, 2021, the research within the mentioned project was realized on a sample composed of citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia. The research was conducted electronic. The respondents were explained that the research is completely anonymous and that the survey results will be used only within this research, which was conducted along with the project partner countries. The study involved former athletes, athletes, coaches, members of sports clubs or associations, members of federations, referees, parents / guardians and managers. All respondents were over 16 years old, were or are involved in sport and at least 20 respondents from each category participated. Most of the questions in the questionnaire were of closed type, a smaller part were open, and through some of them the degree of consent of the respondents was checked. The sample was purposely oriented and adapted to the needs of this research.

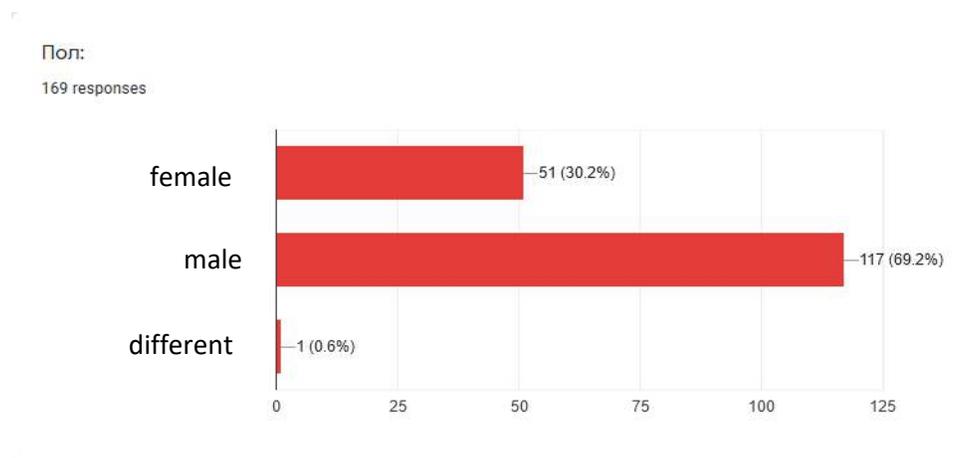
The results of this research will be integrated in a study which will be realized with the same instrumentarium and methodology by the other project partners from Slovenia, Serbia, Italy and Spain.

## 2. DATA ANALYSIS

The following is the analysis of the data divided into four parts, as follows: part A which refers to general data; part B were general match-fixing questions; part C are questions about the degree of agreement or disagreement about match-fixing; and part D, with questions for analyzing different categories.

### 2.1. Part A – Basic information

A total of 169 respondents participated in the research, of which 51 female and 117 male respondents and one remaining (Chart 1).

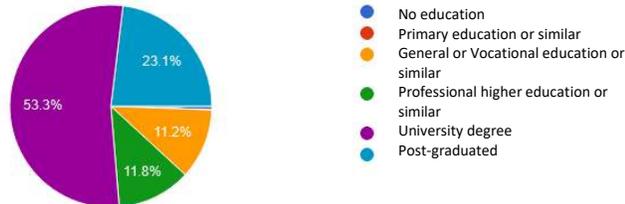


*Chart 1. View of participants by gender*

According to the level of education, 19 respondents participated with secondary education / secondary vocational education. Graduates / 20 respondents with Higher Vocational Education participated, 90 respondents with a university degree participated, 39 respondents participated in postgraduate studies. Most of the respondents have a University degree (Chart 2).

### A1 Level of education

169 responses

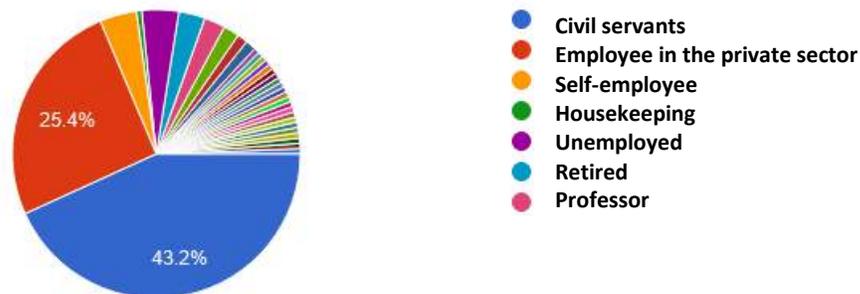


**Chart 2. View of participants by level of education**

Out of a total of 169 participants, most are employed as officials, ie 43.2%, while 25.4% are employed in a private company (Chart 3).

### A2 Employment status

169 responses

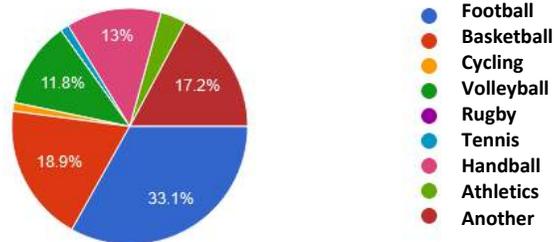


**Chart 3. View of participants by employment status**

Most of the participants are involved or related to football, ie 33.1%. From the rest, 18.9% are related to basketball, 13% are related to handball, 11.8% are related to volleyball. Other sports in which the participants are related are athletics, cycling, tennis, karate, boxing, archery, kickboxing, fitness, judo, dance, etc. (Chart 4).

### A3 Sport activity of participant

169 responses

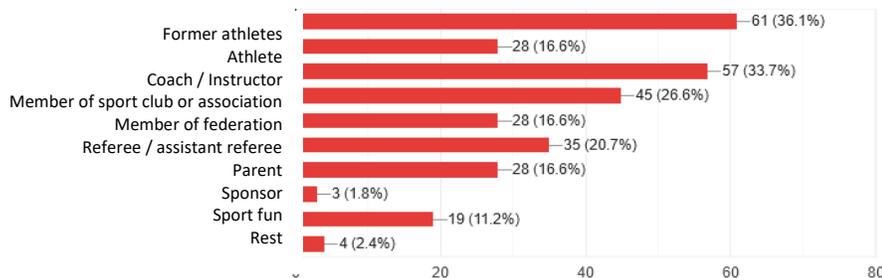


**Chart 4. View respondents by sports in which they are currently involved**

About 36% of the participants are former athletes, 16.6% are athletes, 33.7% are coaches or instructors, 26.6% are members of sports clubs or associations, 16.6% are members of a federation, 20.6% are judges or assistant judges, 16.6% are parents/guardians, 1.8% are sponsors, 11.2% are sports fans and 2.4% other (Chart 5).

### A4 Way of participation in sport (possible more than one)

169 responses



**Chart 5. View of participants according to the manner of participation in sports**

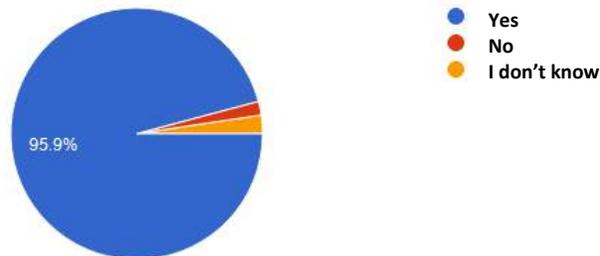
## 2.2. PART B – Perception of match – fixing in sports

The first part of part B of the questionnaire referred to the knowledge of the term match-fixing in sports and the way of obtaining information about this phenomenon.

Thus, 95.9% of the participants are familiar with the term match - fixing, while 38.3% answered that they know little, 28.7% that they know to some extent, 22.2% that they know enough and 7.8% that they know nothing (Chart 6).

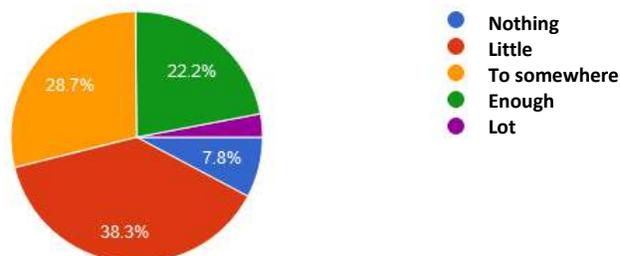
B1 Do you know or have you ever heard about of “match fixing” phenomenon?

169 responses



B1.1. If yes, how much you know about of “match fixing

167 responses

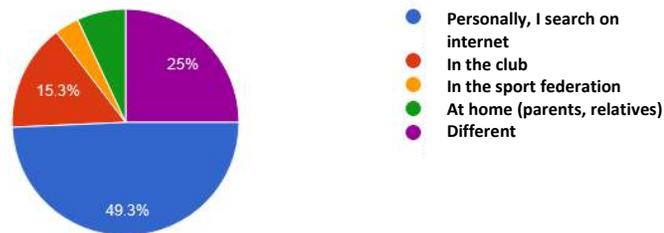


*Graph 6. View of results for knowledge of the match-fixing phenomenon*

The largest percentage of participants for match-fixing find out through personal search on the Internet and literature, 15.3% find out in the club, and 25% of respondents add other ways through which they find out about this phenomenon (Chart 7).

B1.2. If yes, where did you get the information about of "match fixing

144 responses

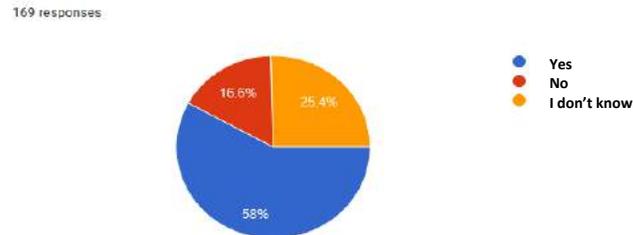


*Chart 7. View of results for match-fixing information*

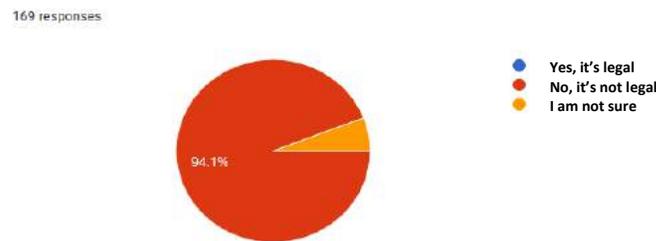
The second part of part B of the questionnaire referred to the personal attitudes of the participants towards match-fixing in sports and this part of the analysis follows.

Namely, 58% of the participants are of the opinion that raising the awareness of the people about match-fixing will reduce this phenomenon. 25.4% answered that they do not know, and 16.6% that they do not agree. 94.1% of the respondents think that match-fixing is illegal (Chart 8).

B2. Does the increasing the public awareness about match fixing, will reduce this negative phenomenon



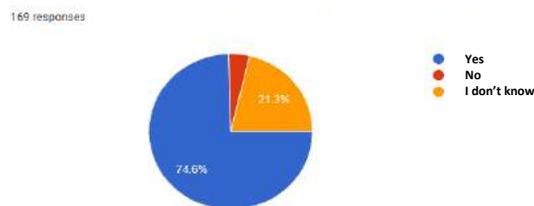
B3. What do you think, does match fixing is legal?



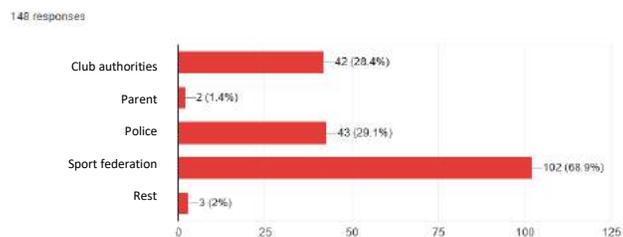
**Chart 8. Participants' attitude to the awareness and legality of match-fixing**

About 74.6% of the participants answered that they would report match-fixing if they are sure, and 68.9% answered that they would report it to the sports federation, 29.1% to the police, 28.4% to the club officials, and so on (Chart 9).

B4. Would you announce match fixing case if you are sure in it?



B4.1 If yes, to whom will you approach (more answers are possible)

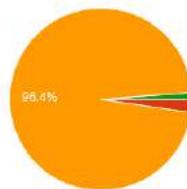


**Chart 9. Attitude of participants reporting match-fixing**

Over 96% of the participants are against match - fixing, and 81.7% consider it unacceptable, regardless of the reason, while 18.3% believe that the reason is to make money (Chart 10).

B5. In general, what do you think about match fixing?

169 responses

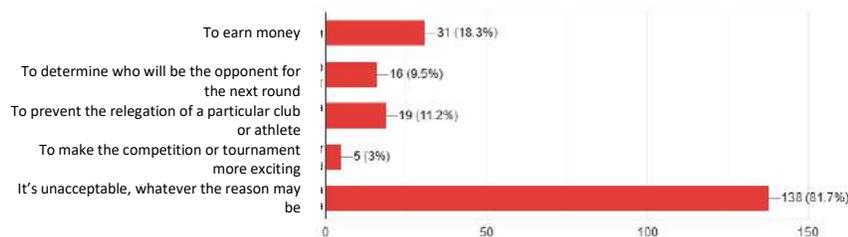


- In favor
- Indifferent
- Against
- Not sure

B5.1. According to your opinion?

**B5.1 In your opinion, are any of these reasons for Match-fixing, acceptable? (multiple answers possible)**

169 responses

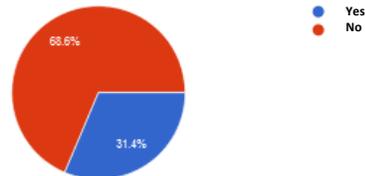


**Chart 10. Attitude of the participants about the reasons for match-fixing**

As many as 31.4% of the participants answered that they know someone who participated in match - fixing and the largest percentage of them are sports representatives - referees (Chart 11).

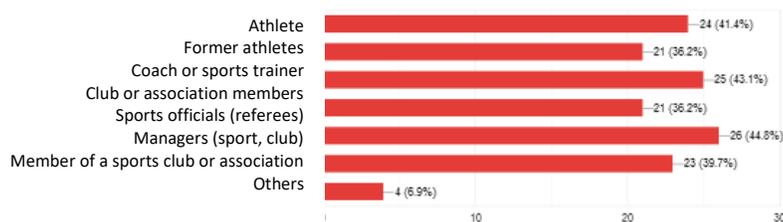
**B6. Do you know anyone who participated in match-fixing?**

169 responses



**B6.1 If yes, who are these people? (multiple answers possible) If you answered NO to the previous question, please do not fill in**

58 responses

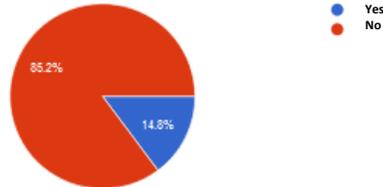


**Chart 11. Participants' attitudes about the people involved in match-fixing**

Only 14.8% of the participants answered that someone approached them to match the result of the match, and the largest percentage answered that it was someone who is a member of a club or association (Chart 12).

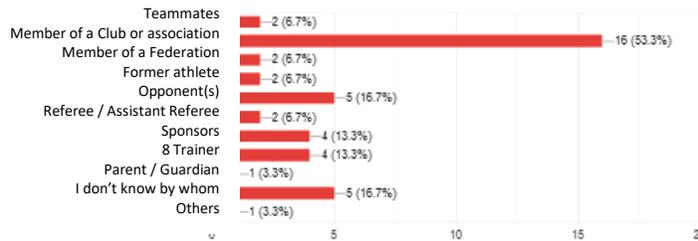
**B7 Were you ever approached by anyone to fix a match?**

169 responses



**B7.1 If yes, who did approach you? If you answered NO to the previous question, please do not fill in**

30 responses

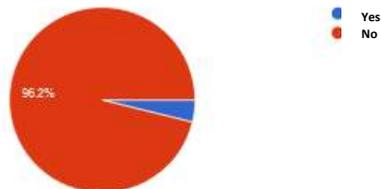


**Chart 12. Personal experience of the respondents for match-fixing**

Over 96% answered that they did not accept to participate in match-fixing, which indicates that the other respondents participated in match-fixing. Of these, 75% answered that the rigging was not detected, and 25% that it was not detected, but still an investigation was conducted (Chart 13).

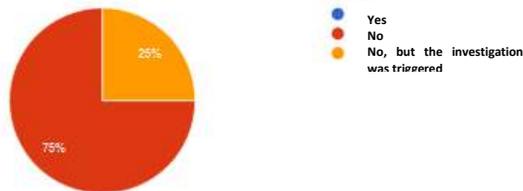
**B.7.2** *If you were approached, did you consent to fix a match? If you answered NO to the previous question, please do not fill in*

52 responses



**B B7.2.1** *If yes, was the match-fixing discovered? If you answered NO to the previous*

12 responses



**B7.2.2** *If yes, what were the consequences? If you answered NO to the previous question, please do not fill in*

3 responses

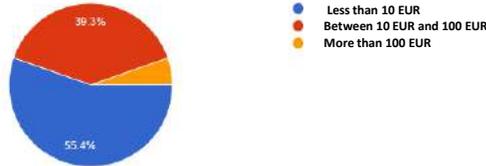


### ***Chart 13. Attitude about a possible epilogue from match-fixing***

Over 32% of the participants answered that they have bet on a sport in the last year, and 66.1% of them answered that it was less than 10 times, while 30.4% more than 10 times. 55.4% answered that they spent less than 10 euros, while 39.3% that they spent between 10 and 100 euros on sports betting. Of these, 29.8% lost the bet, 35.1% won between 10 and 100 euros, 19.3% more than 100 euros, and 10.5% less than 10 euros (Chart 14).

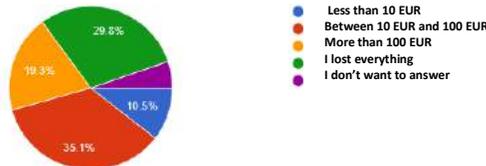
**B8.2 If yes, how much money did you spend (in EUR or equivalent)? If you answered NO to the previous question, please do not fill in**

56 responses



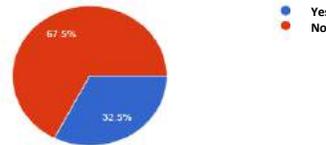
**B8.3 If yes, how much money did you earn? (in EUR or equivalent)? If you answered NO to the previous question, please do not fill in**

57 responses



**B8 Did you place a sports bet in the last year?**

169 responses



**B8.1 If yes, how many times? If you answered NO to the previous question, please do not fill in**

56 responses



***Chart 14. Attitudes about betting in sports***

On the open-ended questions from the survey, most participants are of the opinion that match-fixing is not related to love of sports, but to making money and / or satisfying personal interests. When asked to give a certain attitude and opinion, what are the best approaches to educate people about match-fixing, most answered that it is necessary to have a campaign, education, seminars, lectures, with an emphasis on electronic and social media and that it be available from the earliest age. Also, some of the participants share matches that they know for sure are matched, but most of them are not sure about specific such events.

### 2.3. PART C – Opinions on match - fixing

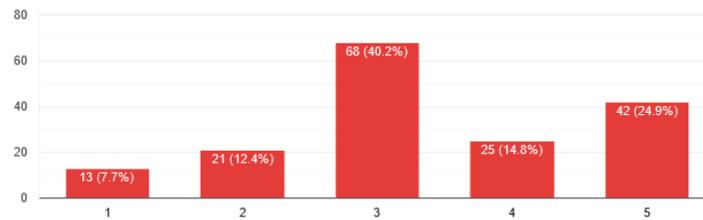
About 1/4 of the respondents completely agree that match-fixing is very common in sports, about 15% also agree with this statement, about 40% of them don't care, while a small part of them don't agree (12.5%) , ie don't agree at all that this is a common occurrence in sports (8%).

Most of the respondents (about 70% in total) think that match-fixing involves a large amount of money, and a very small and insignificant part (about 4% in total) don't agree with this statement (Chart 15).

Дел В

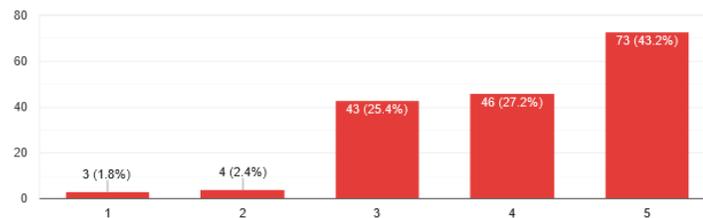
**Match-fixing is very common in sports.**

169 responses



**Match-fixing involves a great deal of money.**

169 responses



**Chart 15. Opinions about the scope and amount of match-fixing**

Slightly more than ¼ of the respondents (26%) don't agree at all and another 20% don't agree that match-fixing is more common in individual sports, and almost 40% of them don't care.

Almost 2/3 of the respondents (about 62% in total) agree that match-fixing is more common in team sports, and again many of them do not care (33%).

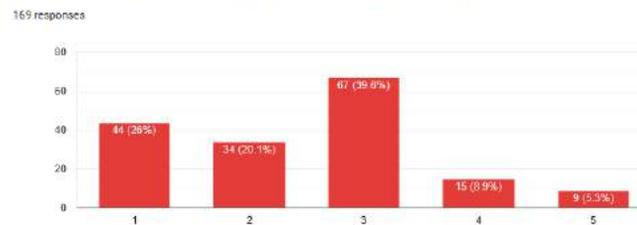
Over 2/3 of the respondents or a little over 66% think that match-fixing is more common in professional sports.

Almost 1/3 (about 31.5%) of the respondents think that match-fixing is more common in semi-professional sports, while a significant number of them (almost 50%) do not care.

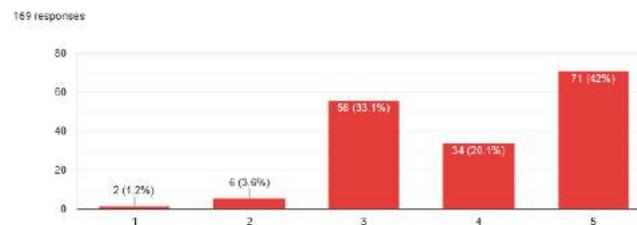
About 50% of the respondents don't think that match-fixing is more common in amateur sports, and about 20% think that it is at this level that match-fixing is more common.

About 30% of respondents don't agree that a higher level of education leads to less involvement in match-fixing, about 20% of them don't care, while about 50% of respondents agree with this statement (Chart 16).

**Match-fixing is more likely in individual sports.**

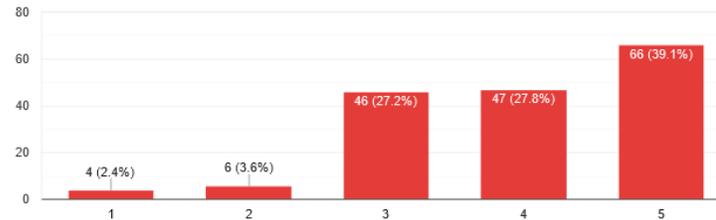


**Match-fixing is more likely in team sports.**



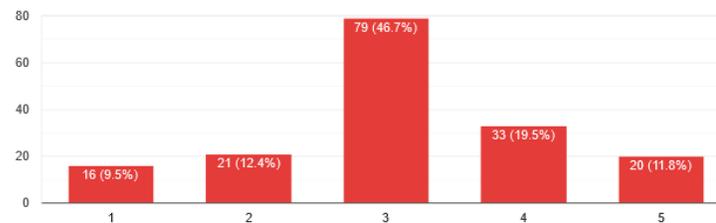
**Match-fixing is more common in professional sports.**

169 responses



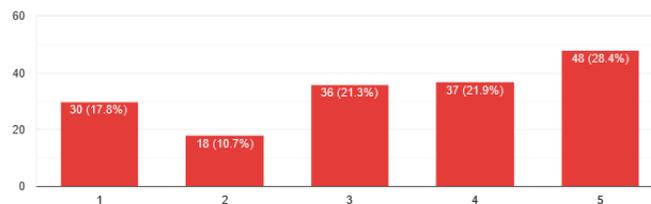
**Match-fixing is more common in semi-professional sports.**

169 responses



**Match-fixing is more common in amateur sports.**

107 responses



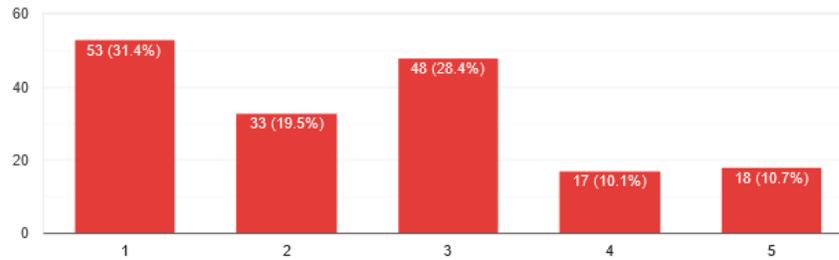
***Graph 16. Opinions about the sports in which match-fixing takes place***

About 50% of the respondents don't agree that a lower level of education leads to less involvement in match-fixing, about 30% don't care, while about 20% of them agree with this statement.

A large proportion of respondents (about 70% in total) believe that the high level of earnings contributes to greater involvement in match-fixing, and only a small proportion disagrees (about 15%) (Chart 17).

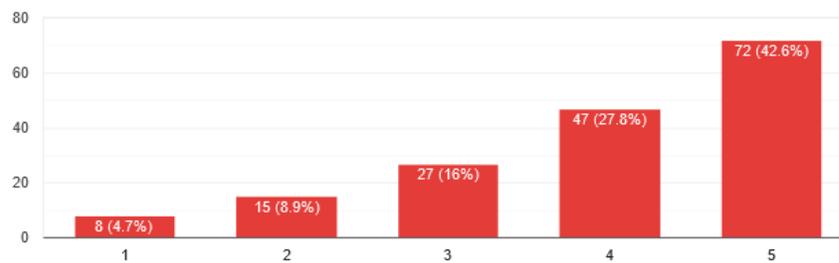
**A lower level of education leads to less involvement in match-fixing.**

169 responses



**A higher level of education leads to less involvement in match-fixing.**

169 responses



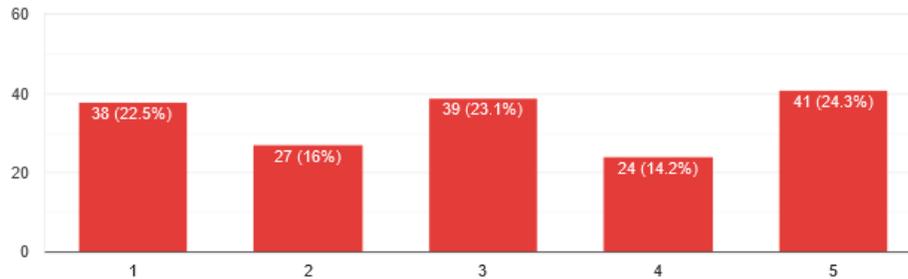
***Graph 17. Opinions about the level of education and match-fixing***

Regarding the view that lower earnings lead to greater involvement in match-fixing, the opinions are divided pro and con 40% -40%, while about 20% of respondents do not care.

The majority of respondents (almost 92%) completely agrees that match-fixing is against the rules of fair play (Chart 18).

A lower level of income leads to more involvement in match-fixing

169 responses



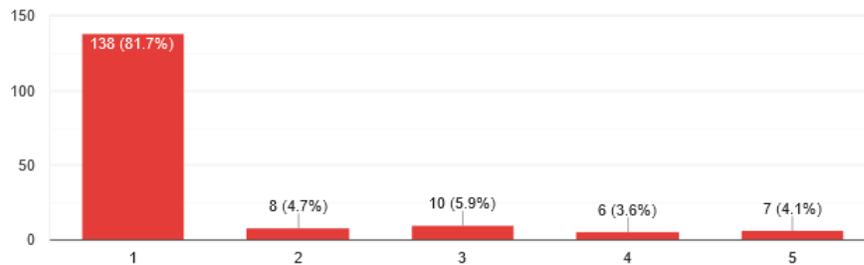
***Chart 18. Opinions about the level of earnings when fixing matches***

A significant number of respondents (82%) wouldn't agree to set up a match if there were no consequences and if they would earn from it, while only about 8% of them would do that.

Almost 90% of the respondents don't agree at all with the statement that match-fixing should be generally accepted, while only about 3.5% agree with this statement (Chart 19).

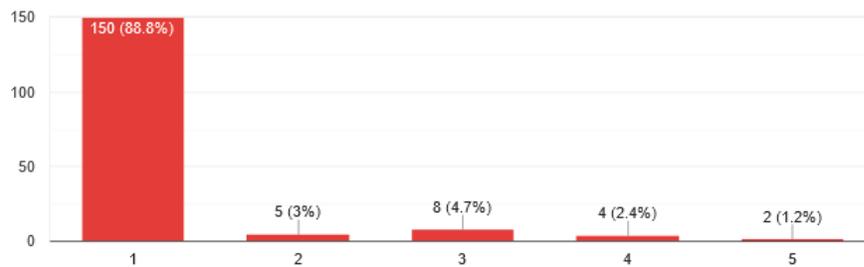
I would match-fix a game if it had no consequences (legal, disciplinary, social, etc.) and I would profit from it (financially or materially).

169 responses



I consider match-fixing to be socially accepted.

169 responses



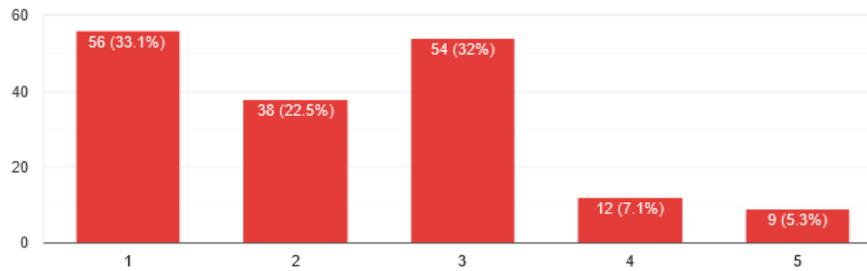
**Chart 19. Opinions about personal involvement in match-fixing**

Most of the respondents do not agree at all (33%), ie do not agree (22%) that there is great control by the competent bodies regarding match-fixing, 32% of them do not care, while 7%, ie 5% , agree, ie fully agree that there is great control by the competent bodies.

More than 1/2 of the respondents (51.5%) completely agree that sports betting has something to do with match-fixing in sports and another (22.5%) also agree with this statement, while only a small part of them (5%) believe that it has nothing to do with it (Chart 20).

There is a great deal of control by the competent bodies over match-fixing.

169 responses

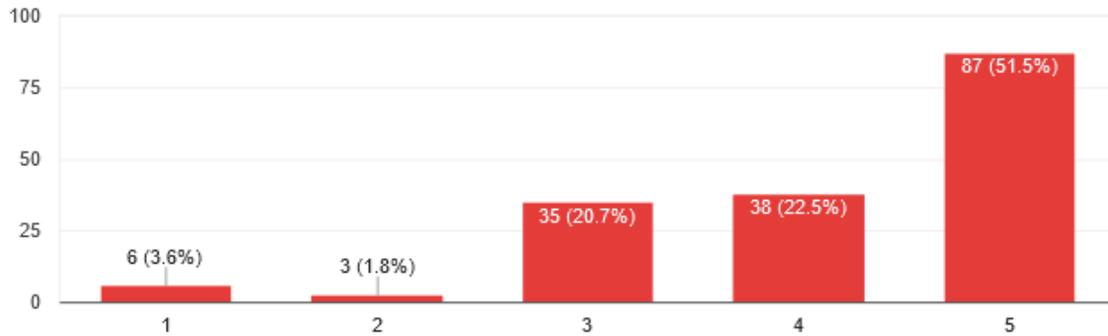


***Chart 20. Opinions about match-fixing control***

Most of the respondents (about 70% in total) think that advertising sports betting increases the possibility of match-fixing, 24.5% of them don't care, while a small part of them (about 5.5%) don't agree with this statement (Graph 21).

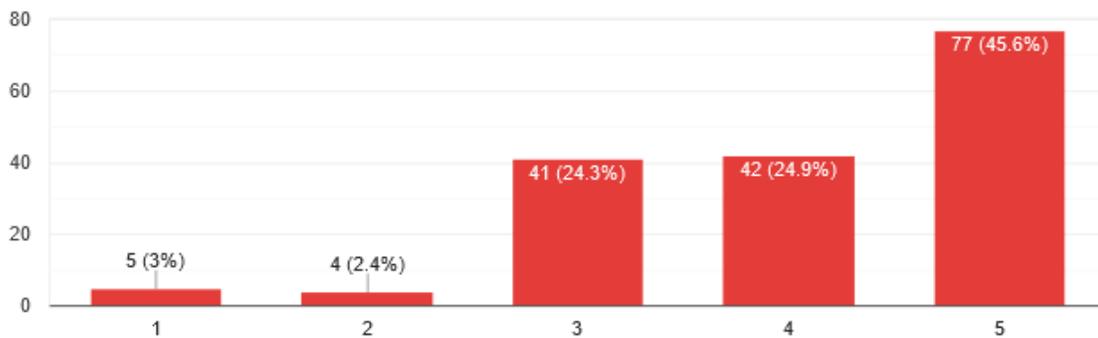
Sports betting has some relation to match-fixing in sports.

169 responses



Advertising of sports betting increases the occurrence of match-fixing.

169 responses



*Chart 21. Opinions on sports betting*

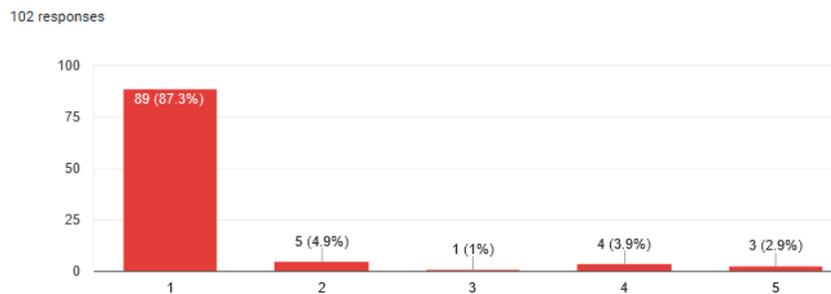
## 2.4. PART D - Analysis of categories of respondents

Most former athletes wouldn't agree at all to commit to match-fixing as a professional challenge (87%), while almost 4% of them would agree and 3% would completely agree.

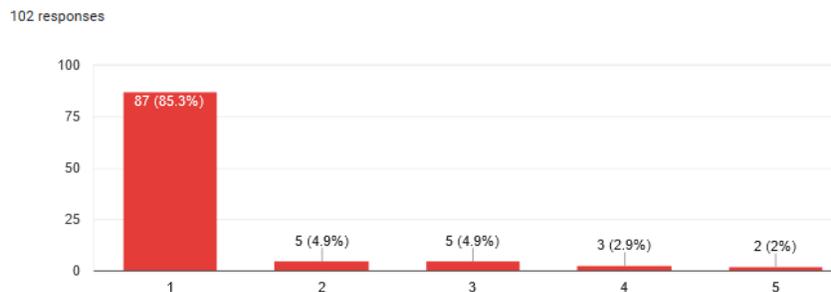
Again, most former athletes wouldn't agree to match-fixing at all in order to stay connected to the sports world (85%), while a smaller proportion would agree (3%) or fully agree (2%) (Graph 22).

### RETIRED ATHLETE

I would agree to dedicate myself to match-fixing as a professional outlet.



I would perform match-fixing, if this allows me to remain linked to the sports world.



**Graph 22. Opinions of former athletes about match-fixing**

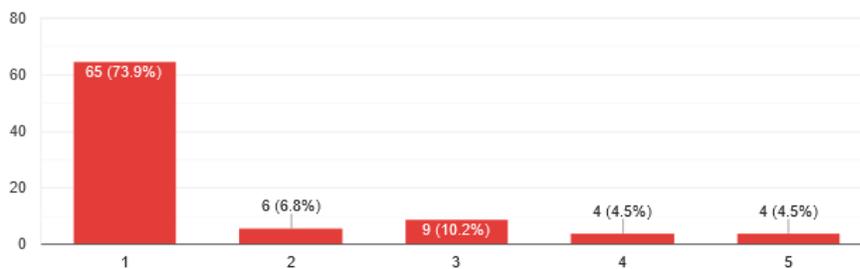
Many active athletes (74%) wouldn't agree to match-fixing that would secure them a financial future when their sporting career ended. About 10% of the surveyed athletes don't care, and 4.5% of them would agree and just as much would fully agree to match-fixing in order to secure a financial future after the end of their sports career.

Most active athletes wouldn't agree to commit to match-fixing as a professional challenge (86.5%), about 10% don't care, and no athlete would fully agree to match-fixing as a professional challenge (Graph 23).

**ATHLETE**

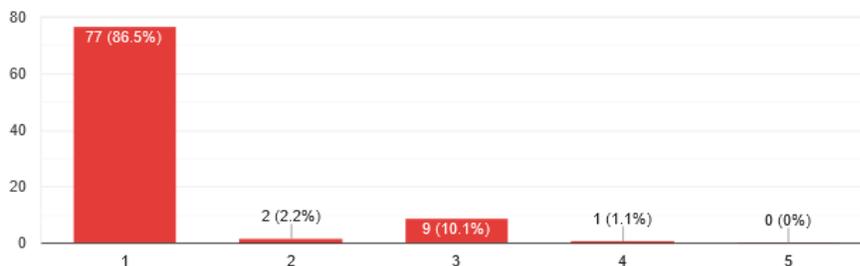
I would perform match-fixing, if this allows me to remain linked to the sports world.

88 responses



I would agree to dedicate myself to match-fixing as a professional outlet.

89 responses



***Chart 23. Opinions of active athletes about match-fixing***

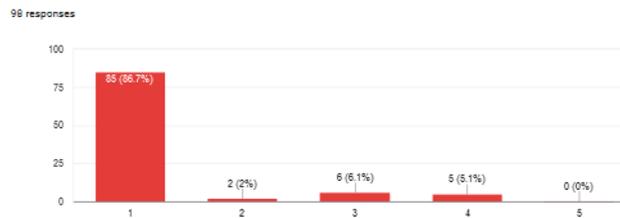
Almost 87% of coaches wouldn't work with athletes prone to match-fixing, but about 5% of them would work with this type of athletes.

Something less than 85% of the coaches wouldn't agree to accept orders from the directors of their clubs to fix matches, about 8% of them wouldn't care, while 3.2% would completely agree to do so.

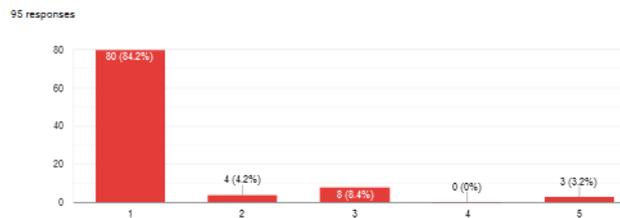
Again, about 85% of the coaches wouldn't accept orders from the managers to conduct match-fixing and about 8% wouldn't care, and 1% would agree, ie would completely agree to do that (Chart 24).

### COACH

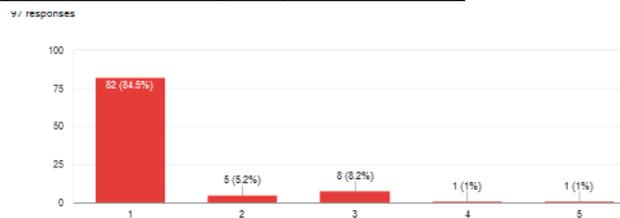
#### I would work with athletes who are predisposed to match-fixing



#### I would accept orders from the directors of my club to perform match-fixing



#### I would accept orders from the managers to perform match-fixing



**Graph 24. Opinions of coaches about match-fixing**

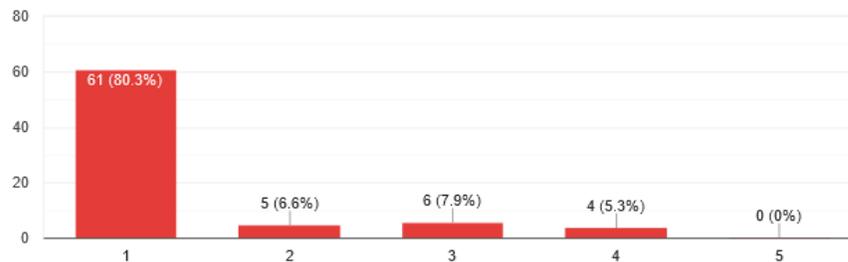
Something over 80% of the managers of sports clubs or associations wouldn't agree at all to connect athletes and coaches who are prone to match-fixing, while only a small part would agree to do so (about 5%).

Almost 84% of the managers wouldn't be willing to influence and motivate the athlete's family and environment for match-fixing at all, and only a small part of them would agree to influence (3%), ie would completely agree to influence (1.5 %) (Chart 25).

**CLUB OR ASSOCIATION MANAGER**

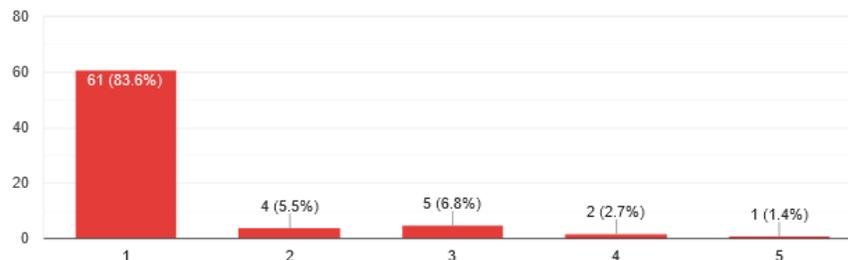
I would be willing to incorporate athletes and coaches with a predisposition for match-fixing

76 responses



I would be willing to influence and motivate families and the environment of athlete for match-fixing.

73 responses



***Chart 25. Opinions of managers about match-fixing***

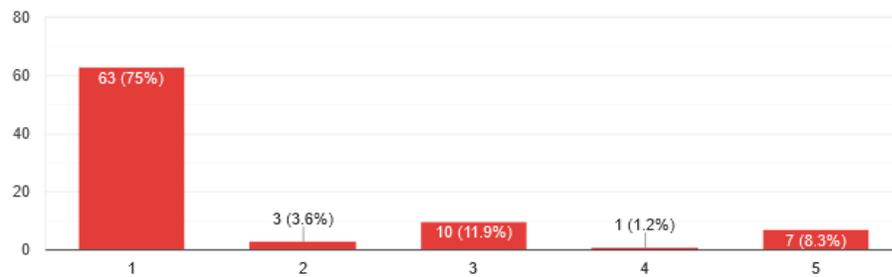
3/4 of the members of sports federations wouldn't agree at all to influence the arbitration team for match-fixing, 12% of them wouldn't care, while 8% would completely agree to influence.

Again, almost 3/4 or 74.4% of the members of sports federations wouldn't agree at all to influence sports clubs for match-fixing, 10% would also disagree, 6% wouldn't care, and 4%, ie 6% would agree, ie would completely agree to influence sports clubs for match-fixing (Chart 26).

**MEMBER OF SPORT FEDERATION**

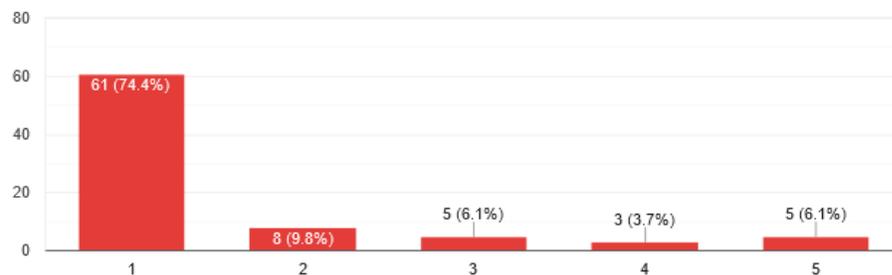
I would be willing to influence to the arbitration team for match-fixing.

84 responses



I would be willing to influence sport clubs for match-fixing.

82 responses



***Graph 26. Opinions of members of federations about match-fixing***

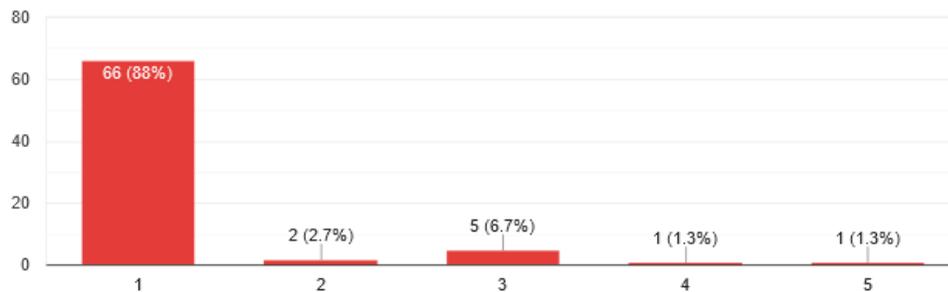
A significant proportion of referees (88%) wouldn't agree at all to make arbitrary decisions if that would lead to their personal financial benefit, about 7% of them wouldn't care, and 1.3% of the referees would agree, ie 1.3% would completely agree to that.

Again, 88% of referees wouldn't agree to accept bribes from sports clubs or associations that would affect the outcome of matches, about 5.5% of them would also disagree with this and the same percentage of referees wouldn't care (Graph 27).

### REFEREE

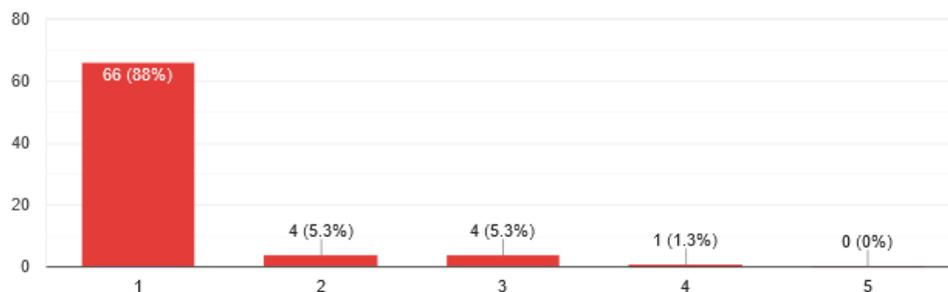
I would make arbitral decisions, if they lead to my personal financial benefit.

75 responses



I would accept bribes from clubs or sports associations that affect the outcome of matches.

75 responses



*Chart 27. Opinions of referees about match-fixing*

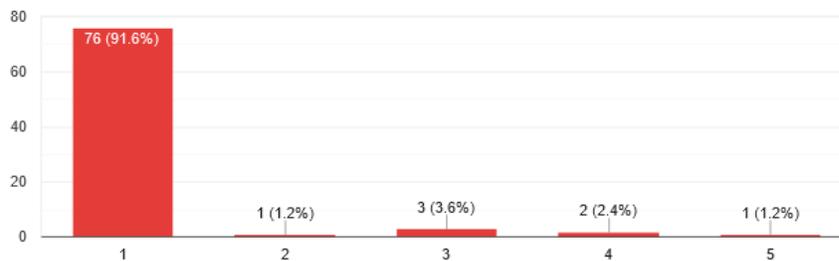
The majority of parents/guardians of child athletes (almost 92%) wouldn't influence their children to be involved in match-fixing, while a small proportion of them would agree to influence (almost 2.5%), ie would totally agree to influence (1.2%).

Again, most parents/guardians of child athletes wouldn't agree to arrange match-fixing with other family members of other child athletes (94%), a negligible minor would agree to this (around 1%), and none wouldn't completely agree with that (Chart 28).

### PARENT/GUARDIAN

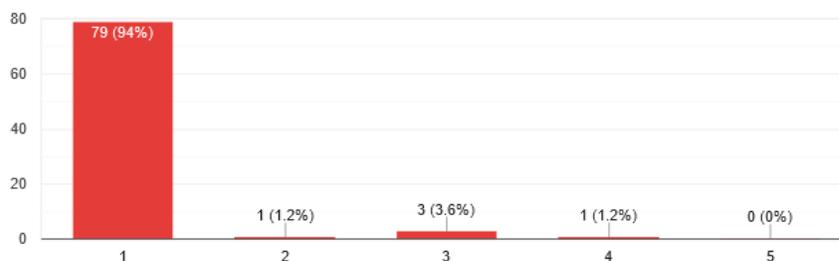
I would influence my son / daughter (athlete) for involvement in match-fixing.

83 responses



I would organize match-fixing with other family members of the other athletes.

84 responses



*Graph 28. Opinions of parents/guardians about match-fixing*

The majority of the managers (82.5%) wouldn't affect their athletes for match-fixing, but about 3.2% would agree to make an impact.

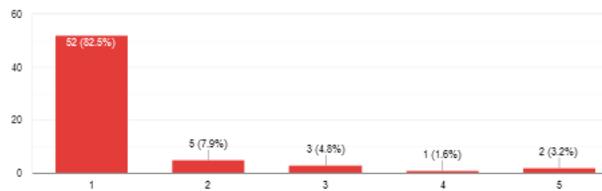
More than 85% of the managers wouldn't choose sports clubs for their athletes involved in match-fixing, while 3.2% or 1.6% would agree, ie would completely agree to choose a club involved in match-fixing.

About 82.5% of the managers wouldn't influence the referees for match-fixing, but 1.6% of them would agree, ie they would completely agree to influence the referees (Chart 29).

### MANAGER

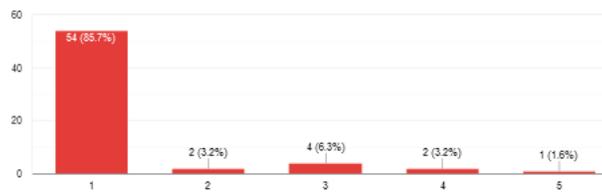
#### I would influence my athlete for match-fixing.

63 responses



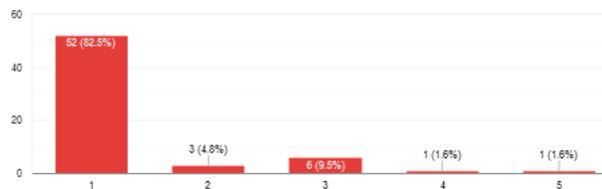
#### I would select clubs for my athletes which are in favor for match-fixing.

63 responses



#### I would influence referees for match-fixing.

63 responses



**Graph 29. Opinions of managers about match-fixing**

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

1. In this research a heterogeneous sample of 169 adult respondents was included. According to the gender structure, about 1/3 were female and 2/3 were male. In terms of education, most of the respondents (more than 3/4) had higher or postgraduate education, while the rest had secondary or higher education. Almost half of the respondents are public employees, 1/4 are from the private sector, and the rest are pensioners, unemployed and others. One third (33%) of the respondents played football, 1/5 played basketball (18.9%), while volleyball and handball played 12-13%, and the rest played individual sports (karate, athletics, tennis, table tennis, fencing, cycling, kickboxing, shooting, boxing, judo and dance). In terms of involvement in sport, more than 1/3 (36%) are former athletes, 1/6 are current athletes and parents (17%), coaches and instructors are one third (33%), 1/4 are members in clubs or associations (26%), 1/5 are referees (20%), 1/10 are sports fans and only two are sponsors.
2. Regarding the familiarity of the respondents with match-fixing results in sport, over 95% of the respondents know about match-fixing in sport, of which 2/3 know little or somewhat (67%), 22% know quite a lot, and about 8% none. Half of the respondents get information about match-fixing through their own online literature research, 15% in clubs, and a quarter in other ways.
3. Again, about 95% of the respondents believe that match-fixing is illegal and are against it, more than half of them believe that raising public awareness will reduce this negative phenomenon in sport. Three quarters of the respondents (75%) would report match-fixing, and most of them would do that in the sports federation, and a little less in the clubs and the police. Over 80% do not give any excuse for match-fixing results, while about 20% think that earnings may be some kind of excuse. This data is worrying, given that one in five respondents justifies match-fixing..
4. One third of the respondents know someone who participated in match-fixing results (32%), while the other two thirds don't know such persons (68%). From those who know them almost equally are referees, coaches, managers and athletes.
5. Only 15% of the respondents answered that someone approached them for match-fixing, almost as a rule a member of a club or association. Over 95% of them did not accept to participate in match-fixing, but still some agreed. They state that 75% did not detect

match-fixing, and 25% stated that an investigation had been triggered, but without detecting match-fixing.

6. One third of the respondents stated that they bet on sports matches, and 66% of them do that often. One third of them lost money during betting, while some over 55% said they received money from betting.
7. The views from most of the respondents are that match-fixing is not related to love and sport, but to earning money and/or satisfying personal interests. According to the respondents, the best approaches to educate people about match-fixing are through campaigns, seminars, lectures, with an emphasis on electronic media and to make it available from the earliest age.
8. About 40% of the respondents think that match-fixing is often present in sport, 40% are indifferent, and 20% do not agree that there is a match-fixing in sport. Two thirds think match-fixing is more common in team and professional sports. Regarding the education of the participants in match-fixing, half of the respondents believe that education has no impact on match-fixing.
9. In terms of earnings from match-fixing results, 70% of respondents believe that high earnings are the reason for match-fixing results, while 8% of respondents would do match-fixing if there is good earnings.
10. Over 55% of the respondents think that there is no enough control over match-fixing, 32% are indifferent, and only 13% think that there is a good control in preventing match-fixing. Over half of respondents believe that sports betting has a strong impact on match-fixing, and over 70% believe that betting advertising increases the chances of match-fixing.
11. By categories of participants in the research, the views of the respondents are the following. Former athletes and coaches do not agree with match-fixing and would not participate in something like that (over 85%), and 3-5% would participate. Among athletes and members of sports federations, this percentage is lower and is 74%, and about 10% would participate in match-fixing. From the sports managers, over 80% do not approve and would not participate in match-fixing results, and about 5% would participate in such dirty deals. Among the referees, the percentage of those who are



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against match-fixing is higher and is 88%, and no one would participate in match-fixing. In this case, the question propounds to the veracity of the statements regarding that the referees are emphasized as frequent participants in match-fixing results. The highest percentage of respondents who are against match-fixing and participation in such actions is with parents / guardians and it is over 90%. Although the percentage of those who are ready to participate in match-fixing in all categories is quite low and is 3-10%, this is a worrying fact and should be taken into account in preventing this phenomenon.

12. The results of this research will be integrated in a wider study with respondents from Slovenia, Serbia, Spain and Italy, followed by a comparison of the situation with those trends in the countries participating in the project.



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