



Athlete Counsellors Against Match Fixing (ACAMF)
622216-EPP-1-2020-1-SI-SPO-SCP

INTELLECTUAL OUTPUT 4

MANUAL FOR THE PREVENTION OF MATCH-FIXING



UCAM
UNIVERSIDAD
CATÓLICA DE MURCIA



Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	4
2	PREVALENCE OF MATCH-FIXING.....	5
2.1	Europe.....	5
2.2	Partner Countries.....	7
2.2.1	How frequent are match-fixing cases.....	7
2.2.2	In which sport it is most prevalent.....	8
3	RISK AND CONSEQUENCES.....	15
3.1	Risks of gambling, sports betting addictions and social consequences.....	15
3.2	Risks factors.....	16
4	EUROPEAN COMMISSION: SPORT.....	18
4.1	Sport Policy.....	18
4.1.1	Report regarding sport policy in each country: national bodies/organizations responsible for sports.....	18
4.1.2	Anti-corruption conventions in each country, national legislation, bodies responsible for preventing corruption, and their roles.....	20
4.2	Sport Integrity.....	27
5	PREVENTION OF MATCH-FIXING.....	28
5.1	Sports Federation.....	28
5.2	Sports Clubs.....	30
5.3	Athletes.....	31
5.4	How technology can be used to track betting 'patterns' aimed at identifying those who, for reasons of Economic interests aim to influence sports events	32
6	CONCLUSION.....	35
	DISCLAIMER.....	36



Athlete Counsellors Against Match Fixing (ACAMF)

INTELLECTUAL OUTPUT 4 MANUAL

“The conceived audience of users for this resource will be the individual and institutional actors gravitating—at different levels—around the field of Sport (Sport clubs, Sport federations, stakeholders and Athletes). In addition to up-to-date information regarding the dimensions and specifics of the match-fixing challenge in Europe, the Manual will integrate target-specific information, tips and good practices on how to prevent and contrast match-fixing phenomena in the different settings in which they might emerge”.



1 INTRODUCTION

Match-fixing is a growing problem in sports which threatens the integrity of competitions at all levels. It occurs when a person or a group manipulates the events of a sporting competition in exchange for personal gain. It is not limited only to the final outcome of the game, but can also involve other aspects of the match, such as the number of goals, points, runs scored, or the timing of specific events within the game. The motives for match-fixing can vary, from financial gain to political or social reasons. Regardless of the motive, match-fixing is a serious crime that has significant consequences for sports and society as a whole. It is a complex issue that requires a multifaceted approach to address.

The ACAMF project strives to help this struggle through raising awareness of young athletes, coaches, club officials and other stakeholders in the field of sports. It aims to achieve it through the training of young athletes into Counselors against Match-fixing, developing awareness raising campaigns and reference documents that offer information and potential solutions for individuals and organizations.

This manual provides an introduction to the prevalence of match-fixing and its effects on sports and society. By understanding the causes of match-fixing and the preventive measures that can be taken, sports organizations, law enforcement agencies and policymakers can work together to combat this form of corruption and protect the integrity of sports.

Recap table:

Topics	Learning objectives	Learning outcomes
Match-fixing cases and awareness	Recognition of match-fixing danger and raising awareness among athletes	e-learning course on match-fixing awareness



2 PREVALENCE OF MATCH-FIXING

2.1 Europe

According to recent studies, match-fixing is a prevalent problem in Europe, affecting a variety of sports and competitions. While there is no comprehensive data on the exact frequency of match-fixing across all sports in Europe, several studies have provided insights into the extent and perception of the problem.

The research “Fix the FIXING”, carried out under the homonymous Erasmus Plus project by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 2017, showed that in a sample of 600 European Athletes from different disciplines (basketball, handball, volleyball, water polo, martial arts, badminton, tennis, athletics, swimming, gymnastics and weightlifting), more than 35 percent of those questioned believed games had been fixed, while 20 percent were aware of manipulation within the last 12 months.

The Field research of the IAM project, supported by Erasmus+ Sport Programme of the EU also provided some concerning insight: in Slovenia (7%) and Turkey (9%) a high percent of athletes stated, that they personally know someone, involved in Match fixing. When asked if they would report Match-fixing if they were aware of it, 18% of respondents from Slovenia and Turkey answered 'NO'. What is even more surprising is the fact that as many as 75% of respondents do not even know where and how to report it. Athletes, participating in this survey were also asked to express an opinion on 'How bad do you think match fixing is?' - with answers offered from 1 (Very bad) to 5 (Not bad at all). The percentage of respondents, answering 'Not bad at all' was: Italy 54%, Turkey 42%, Greece 13%, Slovenia 11% and Bulgaria 3%.

The Erasmus+ sport project “Evidence-based Prevention Of Sporting-related Match-fixing” (EPOSM), coordinated by Ghent University, examined match-fixing in 7 European countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. They performed a large-scale international study, where the results show that almost 20% of more than 5000 participants reported (in)direct match-fixing proposals. More specifically, 18% of the participants indicated that they personally knew one or more persons who had been approached to “fix” a match. Additionally, 8% of the participants revealed that they had already been approached themselves for a match-fixing proposal. The EPOSM study also shows that 48% of the people who reported (in)direct match-fixing proposals had never reported their suspicions or experiences to anyone. The people who had reported their suspicions or experiences of match-fixing to someone, mainly did so to teammates, coaches, or board members of their sport club. In a very limited number of cases, reports were made to an anonymous reporting line or to the police.

The above examples clearly show that young athletes are not sufficiently informed about the negative impacts of match-fixing, resulting in a lack of awareness and understanding of its consequences. This knowledge gap leaves them vulnerable to manipulation and exploitation by match-fixers. Furthermore, the existing national and international platforms that offer anonymous reporting are obviously not widely known or maybe even not as trusted, as we assume. To address



this issue, it is crucial to prioritize education and awareness raising programs, specifically targeted at young athletes, to equip them with necessary knowledge in order to foster a culture of integrity and protect the future of sports.

Sportradar, world’s leading sports technology company, at the intersection between sports, media and betting, has issued a review of betting corruption and match-fixing in 2022 and thus offered some statistics related to match fixing. Their report states that in total, 1,212 suspicious matches were detected across 12 sports, representing a 34% increase on the prior year. In terms of regions affected, Europe continues to see the highest number of suspicious matches (630) followed by Asia (240) and South America (225). In term of sports affected, soccer continued to have the highest number of suspicious matches (775), but one of the key trends of 2022 was the sharp rise in suspicious basketball matches (220), which increased by approximately 250% compared to 2021.

It is difficult to estimate the exact number of match-fixing cases in Europe per year, however, based on the data collected by Sportradar, we can conclude that the phenomenon is on the rise. The extent of the problem is difficult to measure due to the secretive nature of match-fixing and the involvement of organized crime groups.

However, there have been some high-profile cases of match-fixing in European sports in recent years, as it is presented in our ACAMF Match-Fixing Challenge book. These cases, while significant, represent only a small portion of the overall problem of match-fixing in Europe. The actual number of cases is likely much higher, as many cases (as already mentioned) go undetected or unreported.

Recap table:

Topics	Learning objectives	Learning outcomes
Prevalence of Match-fixing in Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To present the prevalence of Match fixing in Europe - To present the attitude of the sports public towards this phenomenon - To point out areas where knowledge of the issue is still lacking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the prevalence of match fixing and easier placement in a global context e-learning course on match-fixing prevalence



2.2 Partner Countries

2.2.1 How frequent are match-fixing cases

Potential match-fixing has been detected in more than 1,100 sports matches since April 2020, according to research conducted by a global sports technology company.

Sportradar Integrity Services, a partner to more than one hundred sporting federations and leagues, has used its betting monitoring system, the Universal Fraud Detection System (UFDS), to find suspicious activity across twelve sports in more than 70 countries. The findings date back to the start of the pandemic, with 655 of the matches detected in the first nine months of 2021.

According to Sportradar's figures, football is the sport most at risk of corruption linked to betting. The UFDS technology has flagged 500 suspicious football matches this year. Almost 40% of those matches reported within domestic competitions were found in third-tier leagues and below, with youth football also targeted by match fixers.

The UFDS also detected suspicious activity in 37 tennis matches, 19 basketball matches, 11 table tennis matches, nine ice hockey matches and six cricket matches. Volleyball, handball, and beach volleyball were also flagged as problem areas.

Europe was the region hardest hit by corruption, with 382 suspicious matches detected this year. Latin America had 115 matches, Asia Pacific 74, Africa 43, the Middle East 10 and North America nine.

Match-fixing motivations can refer to obtaining direct or indirect economic benefits; this can be linked to betting or non-betting cases.

Betting motivated cases involve fixing competitions with the primary aim of achieving an economic gain indirectly from sport through betting activity. This type of match-fixing has been highly publicized when "big sporting cases".

Non-betting cases involve so-called sports motivated match-fixing, which is the fixing of a competition with the primary goal of gaining a sporting advantage directly from the outcome. Sporting motivations can involve winning a match or competition, avoiding relegation or qualifying for a higher level of competition. Because these examples lead to illegally obtained economic benefits, these sports cases frequently fit our definition of match-fixing.



2.2.2 In which sport it is most prevalent

SPAIN

The internet has been the catalyst for the rapid rise of in-play betting, which now makes up the majority of online betting turnover, for example 67% in Spain in 2017 (Gómez & Lalanda, 2018), and this has given birth to numerous new bookmakers around the world.

Face-to-face and online sports betting have created a new form of entertainment.

Real gambling on bets reached €742 million in 2017:

- 305 million € was played in online betting.
- 33 million € in land-based betting
- 1 million € in SELAE sport betting (La Quiniela).
- 7 million € in horse race betting.
- La Quiniela has become a betting game of the past because football clubs are not interested in it due to its deficient performance.
- Betting has become an essential source of funding for professional sports.
- Face-to-face sports betting generated €32.2 million in taxes for the Autonomous Communities.

The sports betting market has been growing steadily since 2012 at a rate of approximately 20% per year.

Thus, it has grown from €304.3 million in amateur play (i.e., the GGR or real margin of the companies) in 2012 to €742 million in 2017.

It has multiplied by almost 2.5 times in six years, several of them during the economic crisis.

Almost 90% of the bets are divided in half between face-to-face and online. The remaining 10% is La Quiniela.

SELAE's Quiniela, with the addition of the Quinigol, has been reduced to 13.5% of this market, with exactly 100 million euros of real gaming and with a downward trend that seems irreversible.

In 2017, sports betting was authorized in all communities. The GGR of face-to-face sports betting, i.e., "real gambling" amounted to €329.7 million, an increase of 16.9% compared to 2016.

In Madrid, Murcia, Navarra, the Basque Country and La Rioja, online betting is authorized in their territorial areas.

In these communities, online gambling reaches disparate proportions: in Madrid and Murcia 6% and 8% of the total, respectively; in Navarra, La Rioja and the Basque Country, higher proportions: 16%, 22% and 24%.



In 2018, 4.5% of Spanish residents aged 18-75 recalled betting on sports outcomes in stores, lounges or bars in the last year.

Most online bets are placed through state-authorized websites. Real customer gaming amounted to almost €305 million (sports betting alone, excluding horse racing).

Real gaming is growing at an annual rate of 30%, with some difficulties.

In which sport is match-fixing most prevalent?

In Spain, several cases of match fixing are observed in all sports. It is football where more cases of match-fixing have occurred.

In some sports, it is observed that there are clubs that pay and bribe players from other teams to influence the results of the matches. With these methods, clubs alter the competition for their own benefit.

Horse betting is a small market, accounting for only 0.8% of the overall sports betting market (€7.3 million).

FOOTBALL: OIKOS

One of the most current cases of match fixing in Spain occurred in 2017. This police operation investigates a second division football match (Huesca vs Nastic). Several player and former players were arrested, as well as the president of the Huesca Football Club and medical officers.

TENNIS

In Spanish tennis, there was an important case of match-fixing. Various players manipulated the actions of their matches to make a profit from sports betting. Double faults, losing a service, losing a set or losing a match, generated a profit for the tennis player of 1.000 to 5.000€. The judge considered that seventy-three matches were fixed. The profits from the bets on these matches were 6.5 million euros.

SLOVENIA

The “Match-fixing and corruption in Slovenian football” research (Dr. Aaron Hermann, Vid Tomić, Oliver Ilievski, 2019) aims to show the current situation on match-fixing in Slovenia, through collected data from key actors and stakeholders from the sporting world.

The questionnaire’s results show that the vast majority (88%) are of Slovenian nationality.

Even though betting on sports is banned for professional athletes the responses to the question ‘do you bet on sports?’ (Figure 11) a concerning trend emerged, that some athletes still engage in it.

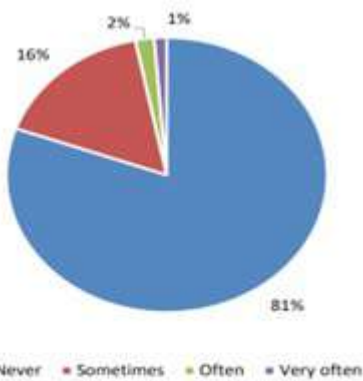


Figure 11: Do you bet on sporting events?

Almost one-fifth of athletes bet on sports.

Figure 12 extends this image and investigates betting in an athlete's inner circle.

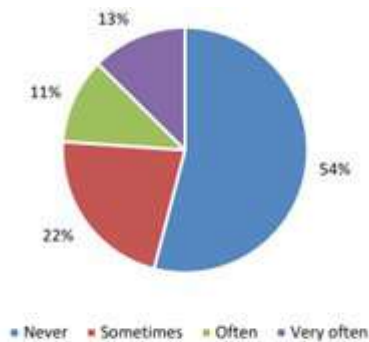


Figure 12: Does anyone of your inner circle bet on sporting events?

The inner circle may include other athletes, friends or family.

In the case of other athletes, the concern is obvious, and it may indicate a wider spread of practice than would otherwise be revealed.

In the case of family, this is an overly concerning trend because athletes place a high value on family members in their decision making and advice.

If family members bet on matches, they may be more inclined to exert influence on the athletes to 'help' ensure results that earn them money. As such, it gives support to the importance of education for athletes' families.

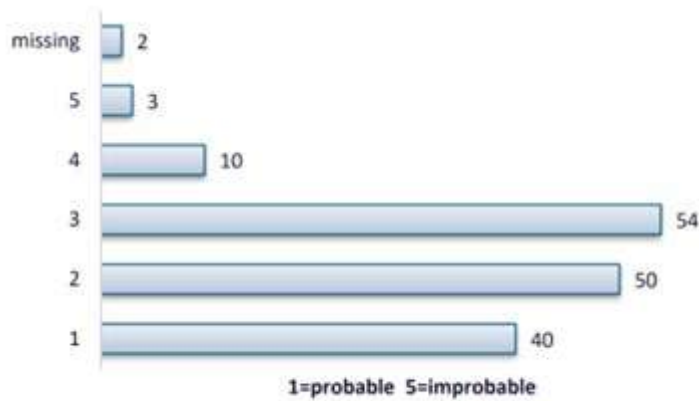


Figure 14: Compared with the past, do you consider Match-Fixing?

According to the responses in figure 14, athletes believe that match-fixing is a problem in the athletic world.

FOOTBALL

Football has grown in ways few could have predicted during the last 25 years, and globalization and market orientation can be responsible for this.

It has both advantages and disadvantages. Corruption is a significant issue.

It is present in sports from its beginning, but because of the industry that surrounds it and its exposure, it undermines the basics of sportsmanship.

Match-fixing is one of the most common kinds of corruption in sport.

The European football betting scandal of 2009 was a scandal involving several European football leagues, aimed at defrauding betting agencies through match-fixing. The investigation focused on about two hundred matches, including national championship matches in nine European countries, including Slovenia, twelve matches qualifying for the Europa League and three for the Champions League. UEFA spokesperson Peter Limacher described it as "the biggest match-fixing scandal to ever hit Europe".

One of the more high-profile affairs, related to Match-fixing in Croatia, with participants from Slovenia is 'Offside Action'. It is related to matches played in the first Croatian Football League (HNL). In 2010, Croatian police arrested twenty-two people on suspicion of Match-fixing and sports betting. Fixed matches were played from March to May 2009. The profit per match was estimated at between 150,000 and 300,000 euros. The two arrested Slovenes were responsible for bribing the players, from Football Clubs: Croatia Sesvete, Varteks, Međimurje and Zadar.

HANDBALL

In May 2012, Montpellier played against Cessonau. Two Slovenian handball players, Primož Prošt and Dragan Gajić bet on their team's lag in the first half of the handball championship game. They



were charged together with 15 other people; most of the accused were fined 10,000 euros each, including the two Slovenian players. Primož Prošt called his act the biggest mistake of his life".

MACEDONIA

Financial globalization and the popularity of sports make the sports business more vulnerable to issues such as corruption and money laundering.

Unfortunately, the popularity of the world's most important side business (soccer) and its widespread usage in sports betting activities contributes to this risk.

The size of the global betting market is estimated at 1.7 trillion euros, and soccer alone accounts for 895 million euros, demonstrating its considerable participation.

According to some research, the yearly cost of sports corruption is estimated to be around 85 billion euros, with the affluent soccer sector in Europe attracting special interest from criminal groups.

The global betting market is estimated at 1.7 trillion euros, with soccer accounting for 895 million euros.

For several years, the NGO sector in North Macedonia has been running a serious campaign about the location of betting and gambling facilities. Namely, in conditions of an unfavorable economic situation, betting and gambling have become mass phenomena in Macedonian society.

The number of companies that organize such activities is growing, and the number of facilities is expanding strongly.

FOOTBALL

The Football Federation of Macedonia, through the Security and Integrity Commission, is fully focused on discovering and protecting one of the biggest problems in modern football - match fixing. A risk that affects negatively and takes increased power in the world of the football game. Therefore, the FFM through the Safety and Integrity Commission through a series of campaigns, seminars and lectures encourages people involved in football to speak out against match-fixing and raise awareness through the confidential reporting platforms of the FFM, UEFA and FIFA.

SERBIA

Sport is one of the Republic of Serbia's most important brands; the successes of Serbian athletes such as Novak Djokovic, basketball players, volleyball players, water polo players, football players, and others have branded and presented Serbia in its best light.

However, in Serbia, sport is one of the few and extremely essential elements of society that has not seen a shift and change in the structure of capital and ownership, particularly in professional sports and especially football, which is the most popular sport in the Republic of Serbia.

The issue of sports following democratic changes has not been addressed, resulting in a rise in match-fixing incidents in several sports, particularly football. The few attempts by journalists, such



as Insider in 2008, to investigate the link between sports, the mafia, and politics resulted in threats to journalists and a layer of secrecy and taboos around undesirable phenomena in sports, such as result manipulation.

Match-fixing is a taboo phenomenon shrouded in secrecy in the Republic of Serbia, particularly in team sports such as football.

"Corruption, in whatever form it takes, including sports events, affects the entire society, which is why a quality and timely exchange of information and coordination of the work of state bodies is required," said First Deputy Public Prosecutor Zorica Stojisic at a conference on corruption and match fixing.

Police Director Vladimir Rebic stated that in 2017 and 2018, 120 members of the Ministry of Interior, along with European partners, received specific training in the fight against corruption and were immediately involved in police activity.

FOOTBALL

Considering the recent events that marked the start of the new season of football competition in Serbia, as well as the fact that from year to year, the same or even worse scenarios of "hunting in the dark" and media "clashes" are repeated, while on the field, at least disputed events / outcomes occur, the Bureau for Social Research (BIRODI) demands from the state authorities of the Republic of Serbia and the Football Association of Serbia to intervene.

In principle, they ask to implement clear and direct measures to "introduce football" into the legal framework, including the enactment of necessary legislation to regulate the operation and ownership of clubs.

ITALY

The highest number of violations were recorded in Campania and Lazio, with the volume of sports betting gambling reaching 350 million euros in 2016. Soccer accounts for about 80% of the total, followed by tennis (about 10 percent) and basketball.

In 2016, the betting market was estimated to be worth 87 billion euros, confirming a 3% annual growth rate.

In the first four months of 2017, existing monitoring systems detected 27 alerts: 12 tennis, 4 soccer, 4 volleyball, 2 basketball, 2 snooker, 1 handball, 1 field hockey and 1 boxing.

The numbers increased significantly in the second four-month period: 31 tennis, 15 soccer, 5 basketball, 1 volleyball, and 1 handball.

During the 2020-2021 sports season, the Sports Betting Investigative Group received nr. 26 reports (of which 18 concerned events played abroad), as follows:

- 12 concerned soccer and the following leagues:
- 7 Foreign soccer
- 4 Football Pro League



- 1 Football Italy Primavera
- 9 concerned Tennis (of which 6 events were played abroad)
- 2 concerned Table Tennis (played abroad)
- 3 involve Volleyball (played abroad)

FOOTBALL

The problem of match-fixing in football is widely acknowledged to exist.

On the eve of the 2006 World Cup, judicial authorities revealed attempts by some prestigious soccer clubs to influence match referee selection. The scandal, called "Calciopoli," subjected to an illegal system involving Serie A and B clubs.

Unfortunately, the Calciopoli scandal did not put an end to Italian soccer irregularities. In fact, other cases involving the phenomenon of soccer betting emerged in 2011 and 2015. The new investigations, known as "Scommessopoli," "Last Bet," "Dirty Soccer" and "Goal Trains," revealed match-fixing in Serie B and Lega Pro.

Furthermore, police investigations revealed cooperation between local groups and international criminal organizations to fix Italian soccer matches.

According to the Customs and Monopolies Agency's Monopolies Area Press Office, Football continues to hold the top spot in sports betting in 2014, with 81 percent, followed by tennis (12%) and basketball (1%).

In 2022, the total global sports betting turnover was 1.41 trillion euros, with soccer accounting for 730 billion euros of that total. According to Sportradar's annual report, "Betting Corruption and Match-fixing in 2022," Italy's Serie A has been confirmed as one of the world's top ten most wagered leagues.

A survey, conducted as part of the "Stop Match-Fixing" project, aims to better understand the phenomenon of match-fixing in Italian soccer so that tools can be developed to prevent the illegal alteration of match results.

According to the survey, the majority (50%) believe it is "constantly present with occasional peak situations," with 20% saying it is "very present."

Furthermore, there is a perception of a phenomenon that tends to spread and become entrenched over time. For 50%, it is increasing in comparison to the past, while for 20%, it is stable. If no action is taken, for 60% the natural evolution of the phenomenon in the future will be to "grow a lot," and for 20% it will "stay the same".

3 RISK AND CONSEQUENCES

Introduction

The EU promotes sports across its territory by supporting exchange and dialogue among sports practitioners in order to support the dissemination of proven procedures and the expansion of European sports networks.

To protect sports competition integrity, the Commission and the Council of Europe are investigating what factors can help to address the issue of match-fixing at the national, European, and international levels.

On the other hand, while it is true that gambling has been associated with sports since ancient times, it is also true that the threats that gambling creates against sportsmanship and fair play were highlighted by the father of the modern Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin, in the early 20th century. The fear expressed by de Coubertin relates to the incentives of the betting market and its ethical-moral relationship with the Olympic spirit and fair play. Massive betting generates massive incentives to manipulate competitions (Moriconi & Almeida, 2021).

The risks and social consequences of sports betting and match-fixing are some of the reasons why prevention through education and projects are essential in this area and entail a responsibility on the part of the institutions and all the possible agents involved.

Recap table:

Topics	Learning objectives	Learning outcomes
Risk and consequences	To know the risks and consequences of sports betting and match fixing.	To avoid sports betting through education
	To understand the risks involved in sports fraud and the world of betting.	To promote policies to prevent and fight against match fixing and gambling.

3.1 Risks of gambling, sports betting addictions and social consequences

Although there are many ways to define sports betting, the current study defines it as betting money on the results of one or more sporting events, the occurrence or non-occurrence of an event within a sporting event, or betting on sports in a competition that lasts a week or an entire season (Etuk et al., 2022).

It is crucial to do research on this subject since poor sports betting practices may eventually lead to gambling disorders (GD). According to the DSM-5, GD is an addiction disease marked by irregular

and repeated gambling practices that can cause distress levels that are clinically substantial and functional impairments (American Psychological Association, 2013).

Considering the historical relationship between organized crime and the world of gambling (Huggins, 2018), this juncture has generated new structures of opportunity for crime. In recent times, and following several scandals worldwide (Interpol and IOC, 2015), the manipulation of results linked to betting has been considered one of the greatest threats to the integrity and sustainability of professional sport (Tak et al., 2018).

Some of the consequences and risk factors of the population, among which the following stand out: debts, especially personal loans and microcredits acquired through the Internet, isolation, loss of concentration at work, poor academic performance, school and work absenteeism. This results in depressive disorders, anxiety, sadness, mood and character changes, irritability, insomnia, ideas of self-injury, despair, in some cases binge eating and weight gain, loss of appetite and weight, feelings of guilt, feelings of shame and worthlessness, as well as low self-esteem. We also find other family consequences, such as distrust, codependency, communication problems, and communication problems (Vázquez-Fernández & Barrera-Algarín, 2020).

3.2 Risks factors

The majority of nations enjoy gambling, which is characterized as a continuum ranging from recreational to problem and at-risk gambling (Reith, 2007). The forms of cooperation at the international level are complemented by the measures proposed at the national level by the Council of Europe Convention. According to the standard, each country must establish a National Platform through which all actors involved in the fight against the new criminality (gambling operators and regulators, police, judiciary, sports organizations, civil society associations) cooperate, exchange information and establish action measures (Moriconi & Almeida, 2021). However, there are many risk factors that are present in this area.

Numerous demographic, behavioral, and psychological traits raise the chance of developing gambling issues. Males under 30 are more likely to than other groups to experience gambling-related problems from both general gambling and sports betting. In addition to sports betting, most gamblers also partake in other games of chance. Comparatively to other games, it is unknown to what extent sports betting encourages gambling issues. According to research, people who gamble with credit are more likely to have gambling issues. Determining whether this applies to sports bettors is crucial (Russell et al., 2019).

Gambling disorders may be more prevalent in those who gamble emotionally. Gambling for excitement and social acceptance are two examples of emotional motives. It's unclear if there are any particular emotional factors that make sports bettors take on more risk. Gamblers who have drinking issues, gambling desires, and incorrect gambling beliefs are more prone to have gambling issues. It's probable that sports bettors who also struggle with these mental health issues run a larger risk of developing gambling issues (Hing et al., 2017).

Moreover, different gambling companies, especially those that offer sports betting, have negotiated business deals to increase brand recognition by corporately sponsoring sporting organizations, events, teams, and stadiums, as well as by buying advertisements during sporting events (Horn, 2014).



Because of the smaller number of participants, individual sports, such as tennis or boxing, would be easier to manipulate than collective sports. On the other hand, some authors argue that players who have just started their careers and need resources to continue developing them (such as tennis players participating in Futures and Challenger tournaments), together with those athletes who are at the end of their careers and have not guaranteed themselves economic stability, are the main targets of professional manipulators (Hill, 2008; Moriconi, 2020). Referees are also targets of constant pressure and are perceived as a collective with multiple areas of risk and foci of corruptibility (Moriconi and Teixeira-Diniz, 2016).

Factors that may lead an athlete to engage in competition manipulation include delayed payment of salaries (FIFPro, 2012; Hill, 2010) individual financial problems; addictions; greed and disintegration of ethical values; interest and pressure from sports agents, intermediaries and sponsors; lack of internal control over money flows; and lack of transparency and high standards of governance in the management of clubs, federations and sports governing bodies (Han, 2020).

The sum of all these factors has led to the phenomenon of competition rigging being considered as the greatest threat to the integrity of international sport (Carpenter, 2012; Gokhale, 2009). According to the former president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Jacques Rogge, doping affects an individual athlete, but the impact of manipulation of results is much greater because it affects the entire competition.

However, the incentives for organized crime to infiltrate the world of sports betting go far beyond the historical manipulations and rigging and are not even limited to illegal or criminal matters. The complexity of the new global online betting market, coupled with new technologies, creates niches that foster new frauds that have nothing to do with external influence on the conduct of sporting events.

Conclusion

Research into poor gambling and sports betting practices is crucial as they can eventually lead to gambling disorders.

Numerous risk factors are provided by researchers and they state that there is clearly a pattern that corresponds to demographic, behavioral and psychological traits and depending on these traits may increase the likelihood of developing problems with gambling in general and with sports betting. In this sense, men under the age of 30 are more predisposed, as are people who gamble on credit, as well as people who are more emotional, those who have addictions, late payment of salaries and lack of internal control of money.

Part of all this big problem, there are the professional manipulators, who look for an athlete profile to offer them these bad practices and this profile are players who have just started their careers or finished and have not guaranteed an economic stability.

All these factors have led to consider the phenomenon of match-fixing as the greatest threat to the integrity of international sport.



4 EUROPEAN COMMISSION: SPORT

4.1 Sport Policy

Sport represents an integral part of the lives of millions of Europeans. Support for sport builds community cohesion, grows social inclusion and leads to an enhanced sense of European identity. Sport is also a key facet of Member States' and the larger European economies; the sector employs millions of European citizens, and adds billions in revenue.

Sport is therefore a vital part of what it means to be European. Policymakers, education professionals, regional and national experts are directly and regularly involved in ensuring sport continues tackle challenges in this field.

The development and implementation of European policy in the field of sport is the responsibility of the Directorate General for Youth, Sport, Education and Culture (DG EAC), a department within the European Commission (EC).

The European Commission (EC) develops and shares innovative ideas EU-wide, assisting in the implementation of programmes at a regional and local level. The Erasmus+ Sport programme, for instance, helps develop the European dimension of sport, boosting cooperation between sports organisations, public authorities and other parties.

Good governance is a condition for the self-regulation and autonomy of the sports sector. The European Commission promotes positive values through good governance in sport. In particular, the EC advances policies with a view to integrate best practices across Member States' programmes and events. These policies are aimed at combating doping, violence, corruption and discrimination in all its forms.

While the EU respects sports organisations' autonomy, it promotes compliance with the principles of:

- **democracy**
- **transparency**
- **accountability**
- **inclusiveness**

At the EU level, several key documents are the basis for running an efficient policy in sports. However, the most operational document that is renewed every three years is the current one **European Union Work Plan for Sport (2021-2024) (1)** and **White Paper for Sport (2)**. Beside those two, there is one which serves as a platform for public dialog and widening of sport values - **Developing the European Dimension in Sport (3)**.



4.1.1 Report regarding sport policy in each country: national bodies/organizations responsible for sports

Country	Body/ies
Slovenia	<p>The supervision of the implementation of gambling in Slovenia is exercised by the Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia (FURS), on the basis of the provisions of the Gambling Act (ZIS) and other regulations issued on the basis thereof.</p> <p>Gambling may only be conducted on the basis of a permit or concession from the competent authority. On the award of a gambling concession and its extension, the issue of licenses and approvals shall be decided by The Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Minister, responsible for Finance.</p>
Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CONI is the Italian Olympic committee. It is in charge of managing national sporting activities and regulating the sporting discipline. For this, all sports organisations of one of the Olympic sports are entered in the CONI register. - Sport Department is a governmental organization. It is in charge of programming, sport-related budgets. But also sports promotion and communication of sports events, studies and research. - ASI (Italian Sports and Social Associations) is one of the most famous association in Italy. It is part of the CONI network and in charge of promoting sport also for the third sector contributing to their sporting, recreational, social and cultural activities. In total, there are 12.500 associations, 110 territorial structures and 38.000 sport professionals members of the ASI. - AICS (Italian Association for Sport and Culture) is one of the most famous association recognized by the CONI. It is in charge of solidarity, culture, social policies, third sector, social tourism, environment, education... - Sport e Salute is a governmental organisation in charge of implementing the government decisions. The fundamental mission is to promote healthy lifestyles by increasing the sport practice in school and for all in order to increase the general state of health - Italian Department of Public Safety, - Sports Betting Information Unit, chaired by the Deputy Director General of Public Security - Sports Betting Investigation Group
N. Macedonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agency for youth and Sport



	<p>It is independent under direct jurisdiction of the Government, while in the past it was functioning under the Ministry of Education and Science. It is in charge for policy development in both fields (youth and sport). It possess its own budget, while the Director is appointed directly from the Government. It prepared laws and other legal documents related to field of responsibility. It creates criteria for financing of sport activities and competitions.</p> <p>-Macedonian Olympic Committee is an association of the organization of all Olympic sports registered as NGO with own budget, full member of International Olympic Committee.</p> <p>- Association of sports federations and organization which is composed by more than 40 different (not only olympic sports) organization</p> <p>- N. Macedonian School Sport Federation is s the largest sports organization that organizes competitions for over 100,000 students from primary and secondary schools in over 20 sports and is the basis for the development of both mass and top sports in the country. It has very close relation with all sport federations from the sports organized by NMSSF.</p>
Spain	<p>- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, through its Directorate General for the Regulation of Gambling (DGOJ), and the Association of Spanish Footballers (AFE) have signed a general protocol on prevention and education against match fixing and illegal bets in football.</p> <p>- General Directorate for the Regulation of Gambling agree on a collaboration framework that aims to prevent the appearance of conduct that may constitute illegal actions in football.</p> <p>- Joint Monitoring Commission is created to monitor compliance with the general protocol. The body will meet twice a year and is made up of two representatives from the DGOJ and two from the AFE.</p> <p>- The joint framework proposes a series of actions that range from holding seminars on the subject, to developing joint information campaigns to raise awareness in the media and social networks, as well as in sports spaces.</p>
Serbia	<p>- National Council for the Prevention of Negative Phenomena in Sports and the Sports Council</p> <p>- For the purpose of more professional realization of the goals and activities determined by the Strategy and improvement of the overall activities of the Ministry, the Minister establishes the Council for Sports, composed of eminent experts in the field of sports, whose engagement in that council is honorary.“</p> <p>Its mission beside the other things is related to the prevention of negative phenomena in sports (doping, violence and misconduct, match-fixing, etc.)</p>



4.1.2 Anti-corruption conventions in each country, national legislation, bodies responsible for preventing corruption, and their roles

Country	Anti-corruption conventions, national legislation, bodies responsible for preventing corruption, and their roles
Slovenia	<p>The supervision of the implementation of gambling in Slovenia is exercised by the Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia (FURS), on the basis of the provisions of the Gambling Act (ZIS) and other regulations issued on the basis thereof.</p> <p>Gambling may only be conducted on the basis of a permit or concession from the competent authority. On the award of a gambling concession and its extension, the issue of licenses and approvals shall be decided by The Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Minister, responsible for Finance.</p> <p>Gambling fraud is also specifically defined in the Penal Code of the Republic of Slovenia, namely Article 212 - Organization of money chains and illegal gambling:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Anyone who organizes, participates or assists in the organization or implementation of monetary chains in which participants pay certain sums of money to organizers or other participants who have engaged in a game or activity before them and expect to pay certain sums of money to participants engaging in such a game or activity after them is punishable by up to three years in prison. (2) The same shall be punished by anyone for the purpose of obtaining for himself or anyone else unlawful property gain, arrange, cooperate or assist in the organization of gambling for which no authorization or concession of the competent authority has been issued. (3) If by the acts referred to in the preceding paragraphs he or she or someone else has acquired major property gain or caused other major property damage, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years. (4) If by the acts referred to in the first or second paragraph of this Article, he or she or someone else has acquired significant property gain or caused other great property damage, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for a term between one and eight years.
Italy	<p>- <u>Three-Year Plan for the Prevention of Corruption and Transparency (2023-2025)</u> was issued by Sport and Health. It deals with both corruption of employees of the various sports organisations and corruption in the allocation of funds. The plan sets out possible corruption and the resulting control criteria.</p> <p>- <u>Forum RPCT</u> (Responsible for the Prevention of Corruption and Transparency) is a service of digital collaboration and sharing of experiences, methodologies, good practices... It aims to support the development of a national network/community of corruption prevention</p>

	<p>professionals. It is aimed at employees of public administrations and employees of a private law body.</p> <p>- DL No. 119 of 22/08/2014 strengthens the penalties for fraud with a focus on match-fixing. The penalty of imprisonment increases to a maximum of 9 years and a fine of between EUR 10,000 and EUR 100,000. Those who illegally collect bets can also be punished with 3 years' imprisonment.</p> <p>- Paragraphs 2 and 5 of Article 4 of the Code of Sporting Justice of the FIGC (Federazione Italiana di Giuoco Calcio) establishes the strict liability of sports clubs as a form of combating match-fixing. In other words, the club is held responsible for the illegal betting behaviour of its managers or members. The article also prohibits members of sports organisations from participating in betting on competitions of FIFA or UEFA or the FIGC itself.</p>
<p>N. Macedonia</p>	<p>- CHANGES IN THE CRIMINAL LAW (2013) Inspired by the latest occurrence in match-fixing worldwide, for which "Europol" is conducting an extensive investigation, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia declared a "war" on those who falsify matches, but also those who go wild on sports matches. According to the latest alteration to the Criminal Code, which were adopted at a government session, prison sentences of up to 10 years are allocated for those who falsify matches, while prison sentences for violence on sports fields range up to 5 years (4).</p> <p>- ACTS OF SPORTS FEDERATIONS Most of the sports federations in their internal acts envisage activities for prevention of match-fixing, as well as penalties for those athletes who do not comply with those acts. As an example in this analysis we will mention the Shooting Federation of North Macedonia which in the adopted Code of Conduct for competitors in domestic and international competitions have provided in Article 2 line 18 "obligation to protect the integrity of the competitor by banning participation in betting, match-fixing results "to avoid contact with persons who do so and to report those persons." (5)</p> <p>- MEMORANDUM FOR AUTONOMY OF THE OLYMPIC AND SPORTS MOVEMENT In 2019 the Agency for Youth and Sports of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Olympic National Sports Federations signed a memorandum for autonomy and independence of the Olympic and sports movement in our country. Following is point 8 of the memorandum, which, among other things, refers to match-fixing results in sports. Most of the Olympic sports organizations rely on technical and / or financial support that is naturally provided by government organs to enable them to carry out their activities and develop sports in the country. Besides, within their mission to provide public services and established policies, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia contributes to the proper development of sports and has the authority and financial resources,</p>



	<p>especially in terms of construction of sports facilities, but also in areas related to education, health, integration and security, as well as in the fight against doping, corruption, illegal gambling, match-fixing, violence, racism, etc. (6)</p> <p>- INITIATIVE FOR BETTING OFFICES AND GAME OF CHANCE DISLOCATION</p> <p>Several years in North Macedonia is running a serious campaign by the NGO sector about the location of betting and gambling facilities. Namely, in conditions of unfavorable economic situation, betting and gambling have become a mass phenomenon in the Macedonian society. The number of companies that organize such activities is growing, and the number of facilities is expanding strongly. Wanting to protect the young generations from these phenomena, several non-governmental organizations have initiated initiatives to alternate the relevant legislation in order to move these facilities at least 500m away from educational institutions (kindergartens, primary and secondary schools and colleges). A group of Members in the Parliament of the Republic of North Macedonia are proposing alteration to the Law on Games of Chance and Fun Games. "In the proposed changes, the premises in which the special games of chance are organized (games of chance in a casino, games of chance in a betting shop and games of chance in a slot machine club) and electronic games of chance (video lottery, electronic bingo and electronic keno) are obligated to be at least 500 meters from facilities in which educational activities are performed (primary and secondary schools), higher education activity (faculties, universities, institutes, etc.), libraries, institutions in which child care activities are performed (especially kindergartens, homes for care of children without parents, etc.) ", is proposed in the legal alteration, which are in the parliamentary procedure ". (7)</p>
Spain	<p>The model of repression of match-fixing in the Spanish legal system is configured from a triple perspective: criminal, administrative and sporting. The Spanish Penal Code, in its 2010 reform, introduced paragraph 4 in its article 286 bis, according to which it is considered as corruption between private individuals those conducts whose purpose is to deliberately and fraudulently predetermine or alter the result of an event, meeting or sporting competition of special economic or sporting relevance.</p> <p>For the purposes of the penalty, a sports competition of special economic relevance is understood to be that in which the majority of the participants in the competition receive any type of remuneration, compensation or economic income for their participation in the activity, and therefore includes both professional and professionalized competition. And by sporting competition of special sporting relevance, that which is classified in the annual sports calendar approved by the corresponding sports federation as an official competition of the highest category of the modality, specialty or discipline in question.</p> <p>The criminal type delimits the active subject of the crime by referring it to the directors, administrators, employees or collaborators of a sports entity, whatever its legal form, as well as to sportsmen, referees or judges.</p>

The penalty is from six months to four years of imprisonment; from one year to six years of disqualification from the exercise of industry or commerce; and a fine of three times the value of the benefit obtained.

In the administrative sphere, sports betting is regulated by Law 13/2011, of May 27, on the regulation of gambling, which defines it as the contest of predictions on the outcome of one or several sporting events, included in the programs previously established by the organizing entity, or on sporting events or activities that are part of or are carried out within the framework of such events or competitions by the gambling operator.

The Gaming Regulation Law attributes to the National Gaming Commission, under the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the functions of monitoring, controlling, inspecting and, as the case may be, sanctioning activities related to gaming.

Although the law does not sanction actions aimed at determining the outcome of bets, it does prohibit the participation in betting games to:

- a) Athletes, coaches or other direct participants in the sporting event or activity on which the bet is placed.
- b) The managers of the participating or organizing sports entities with respect to the sporting event or activity on which the bet is placed.
- c) Judges or referees exercising their functions in the sporting event or activity on which the bet is placed, as well as the persons who resolve appeals against their decisions.

The transgression of such prohibition implies the commission of an infraction considered as a minor offence, punishable with a written warning or a fine of up to one hundred thousand euros.

Finally, as regards sports legislation, both the state sports law - Law 10/1990, of October 15, 1990 - which regulates national competitions, and all the sports laws of the different autonomous communities that regulate competitions below the national level, consider as an infringement of the rules of the game or competition "the actions aimed at predetermining by means of price, intimidation or simple agreements, the result of a test or competition". This infraction is unanimously classified as very serious and is punished with sanctions ranging from disqualification, suspension or deprivation of the federation license; the imposition of fines; the loss of the right to obtain subsidies; to the loss or relegation of a competition or event.

Specifically, the regulations governing this matter are as follows:

- Law 10/1990, of October 15, State Law on Sport, articles 76 and 79.
- Law 5/2016, of 19 July, on Sports in Andalusia, articles 127 and 130.
- Law 16/2018, of December 4, on physical activity and sport of Aragon, article 110.
- Law 2/1994, of December 29, 1994, on Sports of Asturias, article 70.
- Law 14/2006, of October 17, on Sports of the Balearic Islands, articles 143 and 147.
- Law 1/2019, of January 30, on Physical Activity and Sport of the Canary Islands, articles 86 and 89.
- Law 2/2000, of July 3, on Sports of Cantabria, articles 81 and 82.
- Law 5/2015, of March 26, on Physical Activity and Sport of Castilla-La Mancha, articles 108 and 109.
- Law 3/2019, of February 25, on Physical Activity and Sports of Castilla y



	<p>León, articles 106 and 110.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislative Decree 1/2000, of July 31, which approves the Single Text of the Sports Law of Catalonia, articles 96 and 98. - Law 2/1995, of April 6, 1995, on Sports in Extremadura, articles 80 and 83. - Law 1/2015, of March 23, on physical exercise and sport of La Rioja, articles 157 and 160. - Law 15/1994, of December 28, 1994, on Sports of the Community of Madrid, articles 51 and 52. - Law 8/2015, on Physical Activity and Sport of the Region of Murcia, articles 111 and 114. - Foral Law 15/2001, of July 5, 2001, on Sports of Navarre, articles 107 and 111. - Law 14/1998, of June 11, 1998, on Sport of the Basque Country, articles 109 and 112. - Law 2/2011, of March 22, on sport and physical activity of the Valencian Community, articles 124 and 128.
<p>Serbia</p>	<p>In accordance with the Law on Sports of the Republic of Serbia ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 10/2016) there is National Council for the Prevention of Negative Phenomena in Sports and the Sports Council</p> <p>Article 167</p> <p>“In order to harmonize activities on prevention of violence and misconduct of spectators at sports events, doping in sports, match-fixing and other negative phenomena in sports, as well as fulfillment of international obligations in these areas, the Government shall establish a National Council for Prevention of Negative Events in Sports: National Council) and determines its composition, tasks and other issues of importance for its work”.</p> <p>The National Council must consist of representatives of the ministry in charge of the interior, the ministry in charge of justice, the ministry in charge of education and the Ministry.</p> <p>For the purpose of more professional realization of the goals and activities determined by the Strategy and improvement of the overall activities of the Ministry, the Minister establishes the Council for Sports, composed of eminent experts in the field of sports, whose engagement in that council is honorary.“</p> <p>Articles 112, 134 and 137 give permission to the government (central and local) to support with grants programmes that are related to the prevention of negative phenomena in sports (doping, violence and misconduct, match-fixing, etc.) at the level of the autonomous province and improvement of the protection of athletes' health;</p> <p>By Article 100:</p> <p>“The competent national sports federation determines the sports rules in the appropriate branch of sport, and in accordance with the law and the sports rules of the competent international sports federation.</p> <p>The sports rules referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall determine:</p> <p>8) measures to prevent negative phenomena in sports (doping, violence and misconduct, falsification of sports results, racism and chauvinism, illegal</p>



	<p>betting, etc.);” In accordance with the Criminal Law of the Republic of Serbia ("Official Gazette of RS", no. 85/2005, 88/2005 - corrigendum, 107/2005 - corrigendum, 72/2009, 111/2009, 121/2012, 104/2013, 108/2014, 94 / 2016 and 35/2019) <u>since 2012 penalties have been introduced for match fixing.</u></p> <p>Negotiating the outcome of the competition Article 208b</p> <p>“(1) Whoever agrees on the outcome of a sports or other competition with the intention of obtaining material gain for himself or for another, shall be punished by imprisonment for a term between six months and three years and by a fine.</p> <p>(2) If the part referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article has obtained material gain in the amount exceeding four hundred and fifty thousand dinars, the perpetrator will be punished by imprisonment from one to eight years and a fine.</p> <p>(3) If the part referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article has obtained property gain in the amount exceeding one million and five hundred thousand dinars, the perpetrator will be punished by imprisonment for two to ten years and a fine.</p>
--	---



4.2 Sport Integrity

Europe

There are various projects and initiatives in Europe aimed at combating match-fixing and promoting integrity in sports. Some of these initiatives are:

1. The Council of Europe **Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (the Macolin Convention)**: "is a legal instrument and the only rule of international law on the manipulation of sports competitions. It requests public authorities to co-operate with sports organisations, betting operators and competition organisers to prevent, detect and sanction the manipulation of sports competitions. It proposes a common legal framework for an efficient international cooperation to respond to this global threat. The Macolin Convention entered into force on 1 September 2019. It has been ratified by Greece, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Switzerland and Ukraine. It has been signed by 32 other European States, as well as by Australia and Morocco.
2. The UEFA Betting Fraud Detection System (BFDS): This system was established by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) to monitor betting patterns and detect any suspicious activities related to football matches. The BFDS is used to identify potential cases of match-fixing.
3. The EU-funded project "**Keep Crime Out of Sport**": This was a 18 month project, aimed to explore innovative approaches to combating the manipulation of sports competitions by raising awareness, exchanging experience and good practices on sports betting risks and Match Fixing; supporting the setting up of national platforms and regulatory authorities to facilitate flow of information at national and international level; developing methods for following the implementation of relevant procedures, standards and rules and providing maximum visibility and information on the Council of Europe Convention, in order to encourage further signatures and notably ratifications.
4. **The Sports Betting Integrity Forum (SBIF)**: This is a multi-stakeholder forum in the UK that brings together representatives from the sports industry, government, law enforcement, and the betting industry to discuss issues related to sports betting and integrity. Widely seen as a model of best practice the Forum aims to coordinate efforts in developing Britain's Action Plan for keeping sport and sports betting, free from corruption.
5. **The Play Fair Code**: This is an initiative in Austria aimed at promoting fair play and integrity in sports. The Play Fair Code provides education and training to athletes, coaches, and officials on the dangers of match-fixing and how to prevent it. The initiative has also established itself in the Austrian sports world as a single point of contact, advice and reporting facility in the field of match-fixing.



5 PREVENTION OF MATCH-FIXING

Introduction

Match-fixing is a major ethical issue in sports. Although research interest in match-fixing has increased in recent years, we remain largely in the dark regarding how both betting- and non-betting-related match-fixing relate to the moral decision-making of those involved. Therefore, each type of match-fixing requires different preventive measures.

The results of many studies have important practical implications for the sports field. Current preventive measures and initiatives need to be intensified and, where necessary, adjusted to the specific challenges (i.e., betting-related/non-betting-related) faced by the respective sports disciplines. Specific prevention programs for the different types of match-fixing need to be put in place. As the findings suggest, both types are different “diseases” that clearly ask for different remedies.

In the case of non-betting-related match-fixing, much effort needs to be put into raising (moral) awareness and guiding moral judgment, e.g., by providing effective ethical codes on the issue (2). Athletes, coaches, and/or referees have to clearly steer away from these so-called “friendly gestures” or “folk practices” and need to firmly condemn non-betting-related match-fixing.

On the other hand, betting-related match-fixing asks for other preventive measures such as a trustworthy whistleblowing protection program (3).

Recap table:

Topics	Learning objectives	Learning outcomes

5.1 Sports Federation

Betting and sports are linked in the era of modern sport. In many countries where betting is legalized, betting finances sports activities through public lotteries, the profits of which have long been channeled to sports organizations.

For example, the Moroccan lottery finances the national sports agency. In 2019, this contribution reached 50 million euros.

Betting also finances sport through sponsorship: in 2020, betting operators were the second most important man shirt sponsors for European football clubs, behind retail companies.



Another issue at the level of governments and sports federations is corruption in the bidding process for hosting rights to major sporting events and in the organization of these events, both for bidding cities and countries and for the international sports organizations that select the hosts.

This attention has prompted sports organizations that own big sporting events to adjust their governance systems and selection processes.

Several scandals in relation to alleged corrupt processes in the awarding of hosting rights for major sport events, and relating to flawed internal governance policies within sports organizations, have shaken public confidence in the ethical standards of these organizations and in the integrity of the major events that they oversee.

Some recent examples can be cited. In 2018, following an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), a former member of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Executive Committee (now FIFA Council) was sentenced to nine years in prison.

In another case, authorities in France convicted the former President of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), alongside other international officials, of corruption.

In 2019, the International Olympics Committee (IOC), decided to exclude the Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur from organizing boxing events at the following Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo because of mismanagement and governance issues, including competition manipulation concerns.

Recognizing the need to tackle corruption in sport, many major sports governing bodies have developed their own investigation capabilities, including by establishing specialized units, which often have a focus on competition manipulation.

To support internal investigations, many sports organizations have in place a comprehensive set of anti-corruption rules that, for example, restrict participants' involvement in betting and prohibit any form of corrupt practice. They also have rules that allow investigators access to financial data, such as bank records and information held on the electronic devices of suspects. All these rules should be complemented by a wide range of penalty options for transgressors, including life bans for the most serious integrity-related breaches.

Some practical strategies that Sport Federations can implement to address these issues are as follows:

- To develop and implement policies and regulations addressing conflicts of interest at all stages of major sport events;
- To clearly outline the rules that apply to gift giving and other forms of hospitality that are provided by bidding cities and countries to voters as part of their promotional activity;
- To establish stronger internal and external controls systems and innovative multiparty collaborative compliance systems that apply to all participants in the major-sport event delivery ecosystem;
- To designate within delivery authorities a compliance officer who is independently responsible for integrity-management and anti-corruption- compliance processes and activities in relation to major sport events;
- To apply an open-contracting approach in procurement relating to major sport events and use special digital tools to analyze procurement data and produce actionable information;



- To consider engaging civil society organizations in the overseeing of major-sport-event delivery, including with integrity pacts.

"Per l'integrità del gioco: formazione in campo contro le frodi sportive" is a sports fraud training and prevention project implemented by the Lega Serie A and Sportradar in collaboration with the Istituto per il Credito Sportivo.

In the second edition of the project, First Teams, Primavera, and Allievi teams will participate in training workshops. The goal is to raise athletes', coaches', and managers' awareness of the phenomenon of match-fixing.

Among the many initiatives, the European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL3) have published a series of policy proposals on sports wagering, one of which is the creation of a code of conduct for all league participants.

5.2 Sports Clubs

The main motivations are to obtain illicit financial benefits (often related to gambling) and to achieve 'false' goals in sports such as avoiding relegation or obtaining better chances in the playoffs.

Indeed, many sports include tournaments in which the winner of one round chooses the opponent for the next. As a result, losing a game allows a team to face a less difficult opponent in the next round, with a better chance of winning.

At club level, major European football clubs are investing in smaller clubs and training centers around the world with the aim of identifying and nurturing promising players. Marketing strategies are aimed beyond national borders, too.

Markets in Asia and America are specifically targeted through exhibition tours and training camps, while social media is also helping clubs expand global fan bases.

The signing of star players is accompanied by global merchandising strategies, as they attract entire fan bases associated with the players.

Estimates of the value of the sports industry are variable. In 2018, estimates ranged from \$488.5 billion¹² when looking at sport-specific products to \$756 billion¹³ when other economic sectors are included, such as transportation and entertainment.

While these are significant figures, outside of the world of elite sport, the sector is characterized by financial difficulties, for sports people and institutions, which has associated corruption risks.

The integrity of sport on the playing field can only be guaranteed if the organizations that support it, particularly sports clubs and competition organizers, are also trustworthy.

Sport organizations can strengthen the detection and reporting of corruption and other forms of wrongdoing in sport by:

- Developing, implementing, and strengthening effective reporting systems for wrongdoing and corruption. Sport organizations can use existing guides to this end, such as the UNODC publication *Reporting Mechanisms in Sport: A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation*.



- Creating focal points, specialized units, and sufficient internal controls can help in the prevention, detection, and investigation of wrongdoing, including corruption. Such units should report to the governing body's most senior level of leadership and establish working relationships with relevant anti-corruption authorities.
- The goal is to educate them about the nature of corruption in their sport and to assist in determining which regulatory authorities have the authority and expertise to assess and investigate different problems involving corruption in sport.
- Training relevant staff, with the assistance of intelligence, analytical, and research experts, to carry out internal investigations (including interviews and digital forensics, such as computer and mobile phone analysis) into any kind of wrongdoing in their sports.
- Periodic reporting on activities, independent audits, and the development of codes of conduct and conflict-of-interest policies for relevant members, particularly those receiving public funds.

5.3 Athletes

While various stakeholders are involved in match-fixing cases, the findings of the study "THE PHENOMENON OF MATCH-FIXING IN SOCCER: A PLAGUE WITHOUT A CURE?" (Nikolaos Petropoulos, 2018) show that players are heavily involved in fixed games and are the most likely to be arrested in countries where legislation is in place.

Referees and players are appealing targets for match-fixers because their decisions have the potential to significantly alter the outcome of a game.

The cause of an individual's corrupt behavior can be explained by the classical strain theory proposed by Merton (1968), who argued that the reason behind criminal behavior is due to pressures in society on the importance of achieving economic stability.

This can be an issue because athletes' financial situation depends on their physical and psychological performance, both of which are unpredictable by nature. The vast majority of the 11,237 athletes who participated in the 2016 Summer Olympics did not have stable financial circumstances.

Notably, when the end of their career is approaching and they have few post-career professional and financial prospects, athletes could be tempted to make easy money out of their last appearances.

These precarious situations can lead some athletes and their entourages to carry out corrupt acts.

Other studies support this theory, demonstrating that manipulating sporting events is more likely when athletes are underpaid, or their pay is considered unjust.

A FIFPro study (2012) indicates that corruptors target players whose clubs fail to pay their salary or bonuses on time. The research found that 55 of respondents who had been approached to consider fixing a match were not paid their salary on time, while 59,2 percent of players approached were not paid their bonuses on time.

The report concluded that: "Players who do not receive their salaries are very vulnerable to becoming involved in match-fixing. The longer the salary is in arrears, the greater the risk that the player will respond to requests to participate in manipulating matches."



Agnew (1992) introduced a broader version of the classical strain theory, the general strain theory (GST).

Agnew and Brezina (2010) contend that GST is a contemporary and more general approach to the classical strain theory, proposing that a broad range of strains contribute to criminal behavior. This approach takes into consideration three types of strain: failure to achieve positively valued goals, positive motivations, and the presentation of negative motivations. Tensions can intensify and have a negative impact on the individual by encouraging criminal behavior.

Many athletes and referees are unaware of the increasing dangers of becoming involved in criminal activity. The following situations are common:

- Athletes are completely uninformed about match-fixing and corruption, and they have no idea how to face it.
- Athletes do not care enough to think about the issue; they do not perceive it as something that refers to them, or it is not their responsibility to combat corruption.
- Athletes and their clubs are already involved in match fixing and do not want to help address the problem because it would limit their economic rewards and could lead to their discovery.

Raising awareness, education, and ethical and moral training are therefore essential prevention elements. This is required during childhood and early athletic training.

In this regard, athletes play a key role in prevention. They can contribute by:

- Informing themselves about their betting rights and the rules of their sport;
- Informing themselves about prevention strategies. FIFPro, the global representative organization for all professional soccer players, has developed a phone app called "red button" that allows players to anonymously report suspicions of a fixed match.
- Creating a network for athletes to share their experiences and knowledge on the subject.

Furthermore, more professional paths for athletes must be created to protect them and promote cultural factors related to the denunciation of corruption and match-fixing.

5.4 How technology can be used to track betting 'patterns' aimed at identifying those who, for reasons of Economic interests aim to influence sports events

Over the past two decades, illegal online betting has expanded because of the massive growth of Internet use, the globalization of sports viewing, and the resulting popularity of sports betting in countries with limited legal gambling industries.

The Internet has allowed operators of online gambling platforms to reach a larger audience in countries where gambling is illegal. This illegal activity includes money laundering through betting by abusing the services provided by bookmakers, selling compromised accounts of sports companies and bookmakers, hacking major betting operators to obtain competitive information, and running illegal independent online betting operations.

In addition, public forums, clandestine forums, social media, and messaging platforms are all contributing to the globalization of illicit activities such as competition manipulation and illegal betting.



Another emerging issue is the use of cryptocurrencies and cryptocurrency mixing services in the context of illegal betting. They provide a reliable and almost untraceable international money transfer mechanism that can be used for betting, as many betting sites now accept cryptocurrencies as payment.

On the other hand, technology plays a significant role in the fight against match fixing.

Betting markets are monitored by combining both technological and human elements to identify discrepancies between actual and expected odds that can indicate potentially irregular and suspicious betting.

If suspicious betting activity is reported to a sports organization prior to a sports competition taking place, it provides an opportunity for the intended manipulation to be stopped. Alternatively, reporting of suspicious betting activity can be the catalyst for an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the activity, which can lead to the detection of related acts of corruption.

Companies exist which offer services to help detect competition manipulation. Examples include:

- Genius Sports are contracted by the Premier League in England and Wales and the Badminton World Federation to monitor the main global betting markets for all their principal competitions;
- Sportradar provide Fédération Internationale de Football Association with monitoring, education and intelligence services to further strengthen the integrity of football around the world;
- Stats Perform provide leading sports organizations with betting market monitoring, global intelligence gathering and performance analysis services, including for the Wimbledon Championships, the Football Association in England and Wales and La Liga in Spain.

Data analysis is an important method used by companies to monitor suspicious activities, assisting in the detection of anomalies and betting patterns.

Sportradar is one of the leading organizations offering data services. It employs the Universal Fraud Detection System (UFDS), which helps in the monitoring and detection of betting activities.

Using data-driven intelligence allows governing bodies to change their strategy while keeping their sport clean.

Sportradar Integrity Services detected a record number of suspicious matches via the UFDS in 2022, breaking the 1,000-match threshold for the first time. In total, 1,212 suspicious matches were detected across 12 sports, a 34% increase from the previous year.

The Universal Fraud Detection System (UFDS) is the most effective tool for monitoring and detecting suspicious betting behavior. It is used by the widest range of global sports bodies and is provided free of charge to any sports federation or league that wishes to use it.

The bet-monitoring system analyzes over 850,000 matches across 70+ sports worldwide.

Additional investment in technology is the best protection against the growing danger of match-fixing.

Artificial Intelligence (AI), integrated into the systems since 2018, is helping to drive the detection of suspicious matches as it enables greater numbers of matches and a growing number of data



points within each one to be analyzed. The AI now tracks more than 30 billion odds changes from more than six hundred betting operators per year.

Additionally, AI is enabled to access even deeper insights by monitoring anonymized account level or customer level data, aggregated from global bookmakers, to gain insight into otherwise undetectable micro-level suspicious betting activity.

It has enabled new methods of match-fixing to be caught and flagged through a significant increase in the amount of data processed for each match.

The Sportradar Integrity Exchange

The Sportradar Integrity Exchange (SIE) was launched in April 2022 with the goal of increasing betting operators' involvement in the fight against match-fixing.

Operators can join for free by signing a memorandum of understanding, and it provides them with tools to help protect their business from suspicious betting.

These operators' reports of suspicious betting can help provide the evidence needed to launch investigations and build the strongest cases against malicious actors.

Betting activity flagged by SIE members and partners opens a communication channel where data and analysis on potentially suspicious sporting events can be shared in a two-way information exchange with Sportradar Integrity Services experts.



6 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this manual on match-fixing is an eye-opening resource that sheds light on the unethical and illegal practices associated with manipulating the results of sporting events for personal gain. Throughout this manual, we have explored the situation in partner countries in detail, seeing situations that are heterogeneous in terms of data but similar in terms of the seriousness and importance of the phenomenon.

This, also because of the huge amount of money behind it, must lead us to face the phenomenon with greater awareness and more important tools, not relegating it to an appendix of the sporting world, but coming to understand its importance within the whole of society.

After an initial introduction, the second chapter is dedicated to the prevalence of match-fixing in Europe, the objectives of which were to present the prevalence of match-fixing in Europe, to present the attitude of the sporting public towards this phenomenon, and to highlight areas where knowledge of the problem is still lacking. The results are an understanding of the prevalence of match-fixing and an easier placing in a global context e-learning course on match-fixing prevalence.

The third chapter is dedicated to risks and consequences. The objectives are to learn about the risks and consequences of sports betting and match-fixing, to understand the risks of sports fraud and the world of betting. The results are to avoid sports betting through education and to promote policies to prevent and combat match-fixing and gambling.

The fourth chapter discusses the European Commission's policy towards sport. The main objective is to understand how this policy is then applied locally in the partner countries, in particular with regard to national jurisdiction towards those responsible for corruption in sport.

The fifth chapter discusses sports federations and how they deal with sports fraud. This makes it possible to map different behaviours and share good practices.

The fifth chapter then discusses the reasons and dynamics that lead sports clubs to commit offences; the aim of the fifth chapter is also to analyse the causes of the corrupt behaviour of an individual, hence of athletes.

Finally, also in the fifth chapter, it is illustrated how technology can be used to identify those who aim to influence sports events.

This handbook, which reports and catalogues the various national behaviours, is therefore a very useful material for preventing and combating illegal betting.



DISCLAIMER

The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

