

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

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Photos International Olympic Committee

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INVESTIGATIONS

Argentina

Betting probe launched after Argentine side field influencer

Hildeberto Pereira, a Portuguese-Cape Verdean striker, had his contract with Universitatea Cluj terminated after testing positive in an anti-doping test, ending his brief tenure with the Romanian club following a career marked by stints at clubs like Benfica and Vitória FC.

Source: 12 November 2024, ESPN

https://www.espn.com/soccer/story/_/id/42352798/betting-probe-launched-argentine-side-field-influencer

United Arab Emirates

Dubai Police arrest Brazilian man accused of match-fixing in home country

In the UAE, Dubai Police arrested Brazilian William Pereira Rugato, wanted by Interpol for allegedly orchestrating football match-fixing to enable illegal financial gains via global sports betting platforms, highlighting their commitment to combating transnational organized crime.

Source: 16 November 2024, The National

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/uae/2024/11/16/dubai-police-arrest-brazilian-man-accused-of-match-fixing-in-home-country/>

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

United Kingdom

King gets five-year ban in match-fixing case

Former Northern Ireland Open champion Mark King was found guilty of match-fixing and providing inside information by an independent disciplinary committee, following suspicious betting during his Welsh Open match against Joe Perry in February 2023.

Source: 15 November 2024, BBC Sport

Snooker

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/snooker/articles/c30p1150jz1o>

DOPING

India

Doping Epidemic Among Youth Athletes Raises Alarm in Indian Sports

In India, doping among young athletes is a growing concern, with 22 minors currently on the National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA) list for violations, primarily involving steroids. Experts warn of severe physical, mental, and long-term health consequences for these adolescents, highlighting the role of financial incentives, easy access to banned substances, and insufficient accountability for coaches in perpetuating this alarming trend.

Source: 15 November 2024, Footboom

<https://www.footboom1.com/en/news/volleyball/2063813-doping-epidemic-among-youth-athletes-raises-alarm-in-indian-sports>

United Kingdom

Referee Drug Testing Under Scrutiny as David Coote's Cocaine Controversy Erupts

In the UK, a scandal involving Premier League referee David Coote, who is accused of drug use and making derogatory remarks about Liverpool and Jurgen Klopp, has highlighted a major gap in sports governance, with the controversy prompting calls for reform.

Source: 14 November 2024, Footboom

Football

<https://www.footboom1.com/en/news/football/2061126-referee-drug-testing-under-scrutiny-as-david-coote-s-cocaine-controversy-erupts>

ODDS AND ENDS

Global

IOC needs to 'protect female sport', says Lord Coe

World Athletics president Lord Coe emphasized the need for clearer IOC policies on transgender and DSD athletes to safeguard female sports, highlighting the importance of maintaining fairness in competition. As a candidate to succeed Thomas Bach as IOC president, Coe also discussed challenges facing the Olympic movement, including governance reforms, prize money, and geopolitical tensions ahead of the Los Angeles 2028 Games.

Source: 13 November 2024, BBC Sport

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/athletics/articles/cq6l0qgp935o>

Saudi Arabia**The dangers of 'balanced journalism': A call for journalists to scrutinise Saudi's sports investments**

The article emphasizes the critical role of investigative journalism in scrutinizing Saudi Arabia's strategic investments in sports, which aim to obscure its human rights abuses and reshape its global image. It critiques "balanced journalism" for legitimizing oppression and urges media outlets to prioritize in-depth reporting on the ethical and political implications of these investments to uphold the values of democracy and freedom in sports and journalism.

Source: 15 November 2024, *Play the Game*

<https://www.playthegame.org/news/the-dangers-of-balanced-journalism-a-call-for-journalists-to-scrutinise-saudi-s-sports-investments/>

Sport Integrity Group**Integrisport 3.0 Closing Conference**

The IntegriSport 3.0 project (2023–2024) successfully concluded with a conference uniting stakeholders from 32 countries, focusing on combating manipulation and crime in sports and esports through training, collaboration, and international cooperation. Achievements included enhanced integrity frameworks, policy advancements like Spain's ratification of the Macolin Convention, and the integration of esports in anti-manipulation efforts, showcasing the project's impact across partner countries and organizations.

Source: 12 November 2024, *Sport Integrity Group*

<https://cscfsport.com/2024/11/12/integrisport-3-0-closing-conference/>

MATCH FIXING**Colombia****Match-Fixing Allegations? Controversy Erupts Over Alleged Match-Fixing and Calls for Player's Departure**

In Colombia, a controversial penalty miss by Once Caldas striker Roger Torres during a match against América de Cali has sparked accusations of match-fixing, with critics pointing to his gestures allegedly indicating the shot's direction.

Source: 17 November 2024, *Footboom*

Football

<https://www.footboom1.com/en/news/football/2073157-match-fixing-allegations-controversy-erupts-over-alleged-match-fixing-and-calls-for-player-s-departure>

CORRUPTION**Cyprus****Football corruption an "open secret", says AKEL**

In Cyprus, the left-wing opposition party AKEL has accused the government and the national football association of failing to address widespread corruption in football, citing issues such as match-fixing, conflicts of interest, and lack of transparency. The party criticized both current and previous administrations for inaction, highlighting recent controversies and calling for reforms to ensure clean and fair football that restores public trust.

Source: 12 November 2024, *In-cyprus Philenews*

<https://in-cyprus.philenews.com/sports/football-corruption-an-open-secret-says-akel/>

Cyprus**Union caves into pressure, takes back award from journalist for football corruption exposé**

The Cyprus Sports Writers Union (EAK) withdrew a journalism award following pressure from the Cyprus Football Association (CFA) over an investigation by journalist Fanis Makrides into alleged corruption and conflicts of interest involving CFA President Giorgos Koumas.

Source: 12 November 2024, *In-cyprus Philenews*

Football

<https://in-cyprus.philenews.com/sports/union-caves-into-pressure-takes-back-award-from-journalist-for-football-corruption-expose/>

South Africa**Safa president Jordaan arrested in fraud case**

South African football president Danny Jordaan has been arrested alongside two others over allegations of fraud and theft involving 1.3 million rand, with claims he hired services without board approval. Amid growing scrutiny for mismanagement and corruption in South African football, Jordaan denies wrongdoing, maintains his innocence, and reportedly seeks a fourth term despite calls for his resignation.

Source: 13 November 2024, *BBC Sport*

Football

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/c937n05e4yno>

Spain

Demand that Real Madrid's drubbing of Osasuna be investigated for alleged match fixing

Real Madrid's 4-0 victory over Osasuna has sparked suspicions of match-fixing due to a circulating video suggesting complacency from Osasuna players, highlighting ongoing concerns about corruption in Spanish soccer. Despite measures like increased monitoring, stricter penalties, and education programs, match-fixing persists due to factors like illegal betting and financial pressures, threatening the sport's credibility and economic stability.

Source: 12 November 2024, El Futbolero

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's Sports Authorities: A Call for Action as Corruption Runs Rampant

Sri Lanka's National Olympic Committee (NOC) faces intense criticism for corruption, mismanagement, and lack of accountability, tarnishing the nation's already sparse Olympic legacy of just one medal in 75 years. Despite mounting scandals and intervention from the International Olympic Committee, the NOC remains mired in self-serving practices, neglecting athletes and further eroding public trust in the country's sports institutions.

Source: 16 November 2024, Footboom

<https://www.footboom1.com/en/news/cricket/2069815-sri-lanka-s-sports-authorities-a-call-for-action-as-corruption-runs-rampant>

