

## **INTEGRITY IN SPORT**

## Bi-weekly Bulletin 8 December 2020 - 5 January 2021



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Asunto: INTERPOL Integrity in Sport Bi-Weekly Bulletin – 5 January 2021

Dear Readers,

Let us first of all wish you a happy and healthy New Year!

## Please find attached the INTERPOL Integrity in Sport Bi-Weekly Bulletin – 5 January 2021:

- In Australia, the first prosecution of e-sports match-fixing is taking place, following a police investigation after a betting agency tip-off of suspicious betting. Also in Australia, a former top table tennis player was arrested and charged with using corrupt conduct information to bet, in an investigation following suspicious betting activity on numerous table tennis events in Ukraine, Russia and Europe.
- In football, a Czech referee who officiates in the Champions League has been
  implicated in a local match-fixing scandal and Moldovan National Anticorruption
  Centre has acted against an organised crime group involved in fixing local's top division
  with executives, coaches, managers, players and other intermediates believed to be
  part of the network.
- The Tennis Integrity Unit has banned:
  - An Algerian tennis player for life for multiple breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Programme (TACP). The player has also been fined \$100,000 (US).
  - An Egyptian tennis player for three years. He admitted to two breaches of the TACP rules and in addition to the ban, a year of which is suspended, he has also been given a suspended fine of \$3,000 (US).
  - A French tennis line umpire from officiating for 18 months (with four months suspended), after breaching betting rules laid out in the TACP. He was charged with placing eleven bets on tennis between January and October 2019 and a further charge of not co-operating with the TIU investigation. He admitted the first charge and contested the second.
  - A 25-year-old tennis player from Uzbekistan, for seven years (with two suspended) and fined \$12,000(US) after an investigation found he had breached the TACP rules on several occasions relating to match fixing.
  - A Slovakian tennis player has been banned for a period of 12 years and fined \$40,000 after an investigation uncovered five incidents of match fixing by the player in 2017.

From 1 January 2021, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) replaces the current Tennis Integrity Unit. Tennis will have a new, independent body responsible for safeguarding the integrity of professional tennis – the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA).

 The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) has decided to once again allow sports betting and daily fantasy sponsorships due to the Covid-19 situation, after a two-year ban.

- Two former Sierra Leone internationals have been cleared of match fixing allegations but regret the damage done to their image and career.
- In the UK, a former professional football player has been dealt a £1000 fine by the Football Association after confessing to 209 breaches of betting regulations.
- In e-sports, Dota 2 team Newbee, along with their entire roster, has been permanently banned from participating in future Valve events for match fixing;
- Russian doubles badminton player has received a five-year ban after being found guilty of offences relating to "betting, wagering and irregular match results", the Badminton World Federation (BWF) said;
- Legislation: On, December 4, the President of United States signed into law the Rodchenkov Act, anti-doping legislation that would add robust penalties for individuals and entities that facilitate unfair competition in international sporting events. The US President also endorsed the Horseracing and Safety Act to help protect and clean horseracing in the US.
- Russia's ban from all major sporting events after a doping scandal has been cut to two
  years by the Court of Arbitration forSport. The ban still prevents Russia from
  competing in the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, set to be held next year, and
  football's2022 World Cup in Qatar;
- Good practices: FIFA and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have
  joined forces for a new campaign encouraging football to speak out against matchfixing and to raise awareness about FIFA's confidential reporting platforms. This new
  joint campaign aims to raise awareness amongst players, coaches and officials about
  the confidential platforms available to report approaches by suspected match-fixers
  and to encourage anyone in football who may have been approached to come
  forward. In addition, the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) launched a major report
  demonstrating the economic and social impacts of thoroughbred racing;
- The EU funded Erasmus + project T-PREG, Training on Protected Reporting System for Professional and Grassroots Sport has published its guidelines and best practices to protection whistleblowers in sports:
  - Guidelines on match-fixing and whistle-blowers protection
  - Guidelines for optimising EU policies on whistleblower protection in sports, (also available in Portuguese)
  - Guidelines for optimising EU policies related with the creation, promotion and proper use of protecting reporting systems on wrongdoing at grassroots level and professional sport, mainly match-fixing, (also available in Portuguese)
- We are pleased to have received and share the following articles:
  - Criminalizing Match-Fixing as America Legalizes Sports Gambling, 31 Marquette Sports Law Journal 1 (Fall 2020), available here
  - A Compliance Approach to Sports Integrity, published on Football Legal (14<sup>th</sup> Edition, December 2020), available <u>here</u> (subscription needed)
- Finally, In Switzerland, GESPA, the Swiss Gambling Supervisory Authority has replaced Comlot.

We remind you that we welcome submissions on best practices, major developments, new trends and relevant articles for publication in the bulletin.

The next bi-weekly bulletin will be circulated on **Monday, 18 January 2021**.

If you have any questions, comments or no longer wish to receive the Bulletin, please write us an e-mail at <a href="mailto:interpol.int">interpol.int</a>

Best Regards,

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