



Issue description

Committee: Special Conference on global balance
Issue of: Eliminating Corruption in International Sports
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Introduction:

Corruption in sports is an issue that had already appeared during the very first Olympic Games and have been existing and growing ever since. As international sporting events came into being, corruption became widespread causing reasons of hostility among nations while threatening the balance of the globe.

As time went on, numerous branches of crime expanded. The most common of which are doping, match-fixing and tanking, spot fixing and influencing the outcome of competitions for betting purposes. The causes of corruption in international sports can have various intentions from the simple bribery of multinational crime syndicates, to manipulating sporting events across the globe. Consequences range from harmful, for instance sanctions, damaged reputations, and loss of sponsorship, to beneficial ones, for example stronger fan loyalty, minimal effects on winning, and game attendance.

Corruption in international sports is a crime that takes away the real reason of playing sports and substitutes it with business and politics. If the occurrence rate of corruption increases correspondingly to the previous years, sports are very likely to lose all of their purposes, such as the improvement of co-operational skills, integrity and persistence, and turn into a field of corruption, money making and inequity.

Definition of key terms:

Match-fixing: the action or practice of dishonestly determining the outcome of a match prior to it being played.

Tanking: non-gambling type of match-fixing. This involves a player or team deliberately underperforming, giving up a match, losing intentionally or simply not competing.

Doping: the act of giving a person or animal drugs in order to make them perform better or worse in a competition.

Corruption: dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power, typically involving bribery.

World Anti-Doping Code: a fundamental and universal document upon which the World Anti-Doping Program in sport is based.

ADRV: Anti-Doping Rule Violations.



General overview:

The biggest problem with corruption in international sports is that the only reason not to be corrupt is integrity. Coaches want their athletes to be successful, because then their salary will increase and sportsman's purpose is also to be the best to win medals, get reputation and last but not least, to acquire a higher income. Moreover, other sponsors and supporters also have an interest in seeing supported athletes reaching their peaks and so gaining further money for themselves.

Besides these causes of corruption, national purposes also take place. In competitions where countries are fighting against each other, they often want to countervail against the others aiming to present their strength. These attempts usually originate from previous or current political hostilities. An example for this is the Olympic Games held in 1936, in Berlin, when Hitler was on power and Germany won the games as a result of match, spot fixing and doping.

Consequences of corruption in international sports have great effect on the balance of the globe. Influencing the outcome of competitions not only takes away the purpose of playing sports but also induces serious conflicts among nations. International sporting events were established with the aim of bringing different countries, cultures and ethnic groups together and so improving the cooperation between them. Instead, these competitions not only turned into an opportunity for strength-presenting but they even function as a way of demonstrating political and economic powers, which may overthrow the balance of our world.

Doping is probably the best-known type of corruption in sports. One of the biggest problems with it is that aside from making the competitions unfair it also puts the athlete's health at risk. It was during the 1920s that restrictions about drug use in sport were first thought necessary. In 1928 the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) became the first international sports federation to ban doping.

As the medicine industry grows more efficient drugs can be produced. There may be various drugs existing that cannot be detected through drug tests, which were introduced and made compulsory in 1968 by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Since then, several doping cases have been reported in sports competitions worldwide, although probably not each one.

A major drug scandal at the 1998 Tour de France underlined the need for an independent international agency to set standards in anti-doping work. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was established the following year. In January 2013, the retired American cyclist Lance Armstrong admitted to doping and was stripped of his seven Tour de France wins and banned from sport for life.



A recent example of doping is the case of Russia during the 2014 Winter Olympic Games held in Sochi. A lab director at the 2014 Olympics states that he provided athletes with a three-drug cocktail of banned substances mixed with liquor in a systemic and state-run doping operation by Russia. The operation reportedly involved four members of Russia's cross-country ski team and two bobsledders who won two gold medals. Russian anti-doping experts and members of the country's intelligence services would also replace urine samples that were tainted by performance-enhancing drugs with clean urine collected months earlier. Dr. Grigory Rodchenkov, who was in charge of the testing lab, estimated that as many as 100 dirty urine samples were expunged. After this incident, Russia was banned from the next Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang and ordered to pay \$15m in costs. When athletes perform under their country's flag, they represent themselves as well as their nations. If they are caught on cheating, doping or other illicit striving, they also let their countries down, gaining bad reputation that will always be remembered. If these actions are state-run, the disgust is going to be even more serious which, again, may cause further national opponents that could have been easily prevented.

Nevertheless, athletes and countries are not the only ones to commit crime in sports. International organisations have experienced just as much corruption in their way. The most famous example for this is what has been happening within the governance of the FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association), the body that controls international soccer, most importantly, the quadrennial World Cup. For decades, FIFA's abuse of power has earned the organization the antipathy of European leagues. The most accusations targeted Sepp Blatter, former president of the FIFA and his colleagues who ran the organisation, nine of whom were arrested by Swiss authorities in 2015, based on a U.S. indictment for racketeering, bribery and money laundering. The following years dozens of officials from more than 15 countries have been charged with committing the same crimes. Perhaps the final straw fell when FIFA awarded the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2022 World Cup to Qatar, a country with no soccer tradition and very high temperature during the summer. These incidences show again that everything is rotating around money, politics and that things lose their real purposes.

Match-fixing represents an on-going threat to the integrity of sports. It is an illegal activity that can be trans-national and is typically directly linked to criminal networks exploiting unregulated gambling markets. This form of corruption is independent of which type of game we consider as it affects most branches of sport, and tragically, one out of a hundred games played is thought to be fixed, which is a shockingly high rate. Betting on sports is an immense business with an annual turnover of approximately two trillion United States dollars. For instance, more than \$6 billion were wagered on the 2014 FIFA World Cup Final and \$4 billion on the NFL Superbowl in 2017. In addition to these, 85% of sports betting is stated to be illegal.

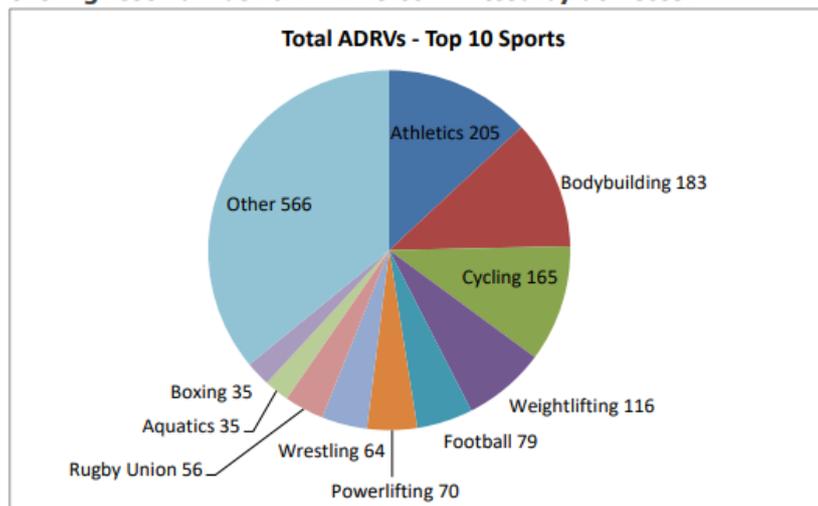


Crime organizations approach players, match officials and make deals with them to change certain elements of the game or the outcome of a match. These athletes and officials are often chosen as victims of racketeering for a reason: they may struggle with financial difficulties or have something to hide from the public. The participation of crime syndicates in illegal betting would be especially significant to eliminate. In case of these organizations, we are taking account of enormous amount of money and this income that criminals gain by illicit betting is ploughed back into their illegal activities such as drug and human trafficking.

Although there had been successful attempts, it is still extremely difficult to prove corruption in sports, because most sport organizations have little or no transparency when it comes to their financial dealings. If this problem could be solved, we would not only bring the beauty of playing sports back but would even eliminate one cause of national opponents.

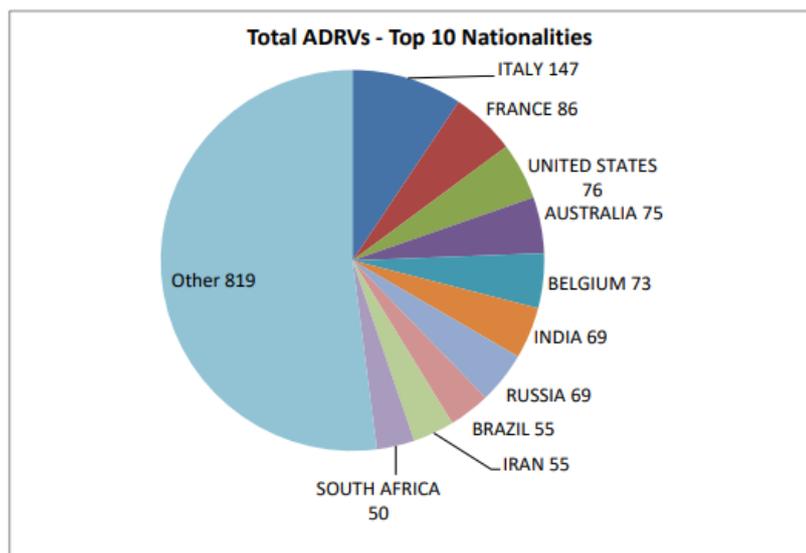
5. The sports with the highest number of ADRVs committed by athletes:

1. Athletics (205)
2. Bodybuilding (183)
3. Cycling (165)
4. Weightlifting (116)
5. Football (79)
6. Powerlifting (70)
7. Wrestling (64)
8. Rugby Union (56)
9. Aquatics (35)
9. Boxing (35)



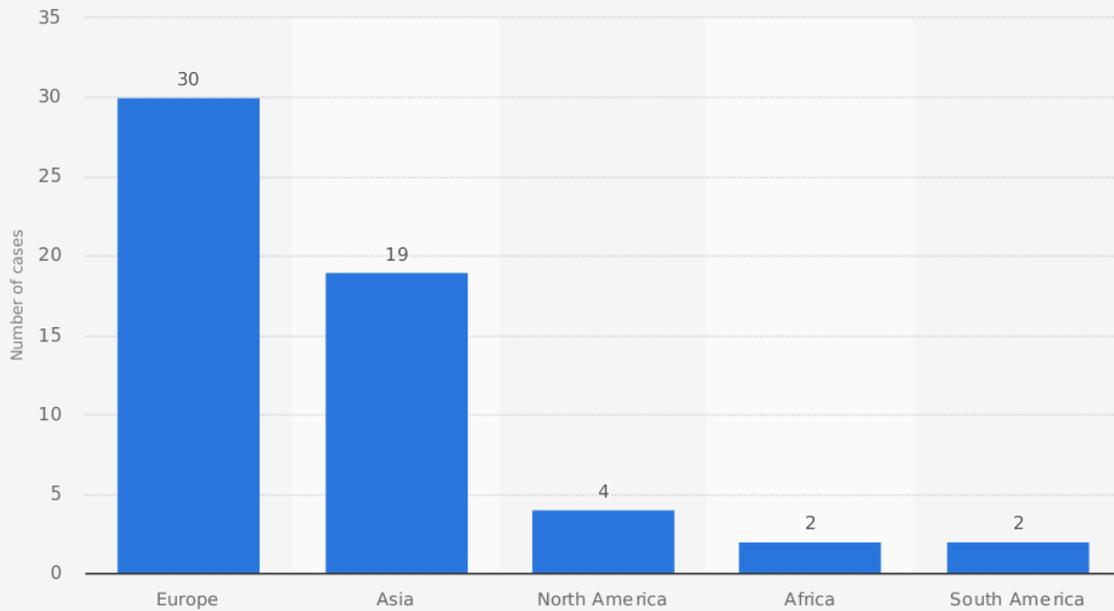
6. The athlete nationalities² with the highest number of ADRVs:

1. Italy (147)
2. France (86)
3. United States (76)
4. Australia (75)
5. Belgium (73)
6. India (69)
6. Russia (69)
8. Brazil (55)
8. Iran (55)
9. South Africa (50)





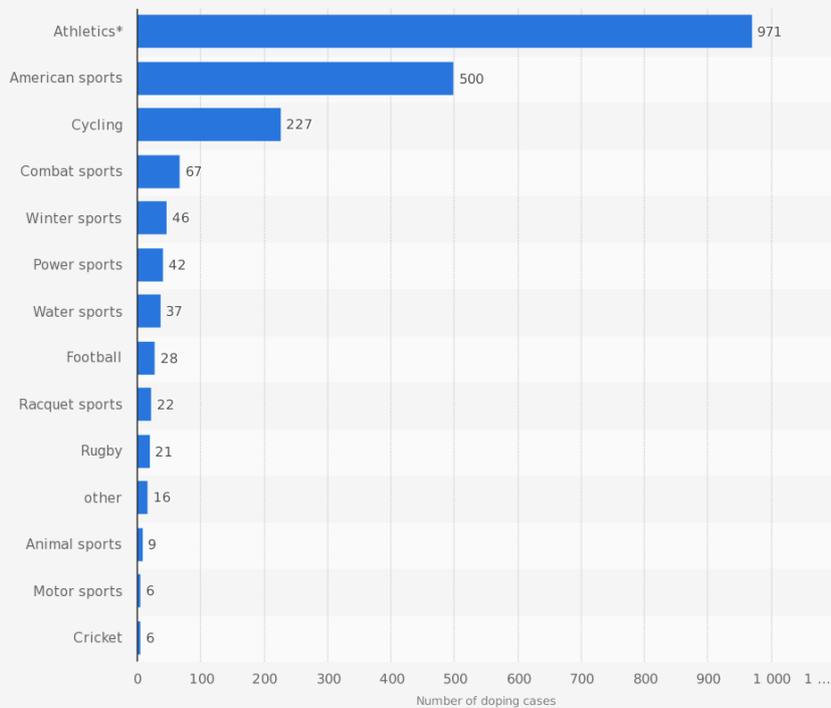
Number of match fixing cases in international sports between 2000 and 2010, by world region*



Source
Remote Gambling Association
© Statista 2018

Additional Information:
Worldwide; Remote Gambling Association; 2000 to 2010

Number of doping cases in international sports between 2000 and 2010, by sport



Source
ASPRS
© Statista 2018

Additional Information:
Worldwide; ASPRS; 2000 to 2010



Major Parties Involved:

International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF): was founded to fulfil the need for a world governing authority, for a competition programme, for standardised technical equipment and for a list of official world records. All of these requirements remain today.

International Olympic Committee (IOC): is a private non-governmental organisation and the authority responsible for organising the modern Olympic Games, fighting for fair played sports.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA): is an international, independent organisation monitoring and regulating the global fight against doping through the World Anti-Doping Code and is responsible for monitoring the implementation of and compliance with the Code by its signatories.

Transparency International (TI): is an international non-governmental organization which is based in Berlin, Germany, and was founded in 1993. Its non-profit purpose is to take action to combat global corruption with civil societal anti-corruption measures and to prevent criminal activities arising from corruption.

International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport (IPACS): is an informal network bringing together intergovernmental organisations, international sports organisations and governments, combining the efforts of the various stakeholders in the fight against corruption in the governance of sport.

Italy: has experienced much corruption in national football. One scandal was uncovered in May 2006 by the Italian police, when a number of illegal telephone interceptions showed a thick network of relations between team managers and referee organizations, being accused of rigging games by selecting favourable referees. The country had another well-known scandal when tens of football players were investigated and arrested for match-fixing.

Russian Federation: Besides the 2014 Winter Olympics, when Russia has operated a state-run doping program, the country has a great history of doping as 41 Olympic medals of theirs were stripped for doping violations.



Timeline of events:

- 23 June 1894** Foundation of IOC.
- 17 July 1912** Foundation of IAAF.
- 1993** Foundation of Transparency International.
- 1998** Major drug scandal at the Tour de France.
- November 1999** Foundation of WADA.
- 2014** State-run doping operation by Russia during the Winter Olympics.
- December 2015** The independent FIFA Ethics Committee ejected Blatter from office and banned him from taking part in any FIFA activities over the following eight years (later it was reduced to six years).

Previous attempts to solve the issue:

Fortunately, there are many organizations existing that deal with this problem. On 20 April 2005 the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec (2005)8 on the principles of good governance in sport was adopted. Corruption in sports was the main theme of the Council of Europe's 13th Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport in Macolin, September 2014 (MSL13), and the 14th Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport in Budapest, October 2016 (MSL14). Furthermore, the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly passed Resolution 1875 in 2012 to reform football governance and Resolution 2053 in 2015 for good governance and ethics in sport. Transparency International is one of the most active organizations fighting with corruption on a global level. It publishes writings and recommendations, drawing attention, doing researches and analyses along with organizing conferences all around the world. WADA has a document written, called the World Anti-Doping Code which serves as a worldwide standard for anti-doping regulations. More than 630 sport organizations and national anti-doping agencies have adopted the Code, however, it had been violated at various occasions.

At the 2016 Anti-Corruption Summit in London, the UK joined the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport that has brought together the International Olympic Committee, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the Council of Europe and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. At a meeting of the partnership in Paris in December 2017, it was agreed that three task forces would be created to reduce corruption risks in procurement relating to sporting events and infrastructure, ensuring integrity in the selection of host cities for major sporting events and mitigating the risk of corruption by improving compliance with good governance. The UK Code for Sports Governance was announced in the government's sport strategy. The code came into force in April 2017 and to date, 55 out of 58 national sports bodies have complied with the code, ensuring more diverse board membership and increasing transparency to help fans and those taking part better understand the decision-making of those leading their sports.



Possible solutions and approaches:

We need to set up a global framework for good governance in sport that respects the principles of democracy, transparency, accountability and integrity, and upholds the sports ethics values of fair play, respect for human rights and human dignity, solidarity, diversity and prohibition of any form of discrimination. It is essential to look into the past and previously held investigations to uncover former scandals and it is even more important to create conditions where these cannot occur again.

We shall reduce the participation of crime syndicates in illegal sports betting. Putting more effort into revealing these activities may help to reach our goal. Moreover, legalizing certain types of gambling might happen to bring success as if these appeared restricted by specified laws, we could attain more transparency within involved companies.

In addition, we are in the need of improving the mechanisms of governance within sports institutions along with procuring cooperation between them and other organizations aiming to regain the purposes of sport that had been covered and suppressed by the corruption increasing year by year. It would be indispensable that sportsmen, sportswomen and managers of organizations served as exemplary role models for the youth. We only educate children sports physically and not drawing their attention to the power of cooperation and the importance of integrity. We must not let them see and experience another politics and money based, fraud-rich world.



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