



Transparency International

European Professional Football Leagues EPFL

DFL Deutsche Fußball Liga GmbH

Staying on Side: How to Stop Match-fixing

Kick-off meeting

Berlin, 21 March 2013

Meeting report



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21st March 2013

Opening and introduction

Emanuel Medeiros, CEO, European Professional Football Leagues EPFL

Robin Hodess, Group Director of Research and Knowledge, Transparency International Secretariat

Juergen Paepke, Director of Legal Department, DFL Deutsche Fußball Liga GmbH

Emanuel Medeiros opened the meeting by stating that sport relies on responsibility and ethics. He noted the importance of recognizing the harm done by match-fixing to football. He invited the national leagues to address this problem proactively and to publicly show and state their commitment to fight match-fixing and any type of corruption in football. He thanked TI for lending the expertise for tackling match-fixing and DFL for their work in Germany in improving the game.

Robin Hodess stressed the scale of the problem of match-fixing in sport as demonstrated by Europol investigation and the importance of prevention. She also pointed to the work of TI in curbing corruption in sport since 2009 and underlined the importance for anti-corruption actors and football associations to work together.

Juergen Paepke noted that the project against match-fixing is a good way for providing information and support especially to young players on how to avoid corruption. DFL are proud to build a strong partnership with the European Commission, Transparency International, EPFL and other organisations and to work with players, referees and clubs in countering match-fixing.

Session 1. Match-fixing: what's at stake?

Anja Osterhaus, Transparency International Secretariat

Pierre Cornu, International Centre for Sports Studies CIES

Sylvia Schenk, Transparency International Secretariat

Staying on side: football leagues and anti-corruption organisations team up to prevent match-fixing

Anja Osterhaus welcomed this unique collaboration between Transparency International, EPFL and DFL who share the vision of working together to prevent match-fixing in football, building on the experience in Germany. She noted the need for different and complementary approaches to tackle this problem. This project will focus on building prevention programmes in six European countries, with the aim to expand this experience even beyond the countries directly involved in the project.

Match-fixing – an introduction

Pierre Cornu gave a comprehensive introduction into the problem of match-fixing, the reasons and conditions underpinning it, the involvement of organised crime, the role of law enforcement. The following key points were of note:

- There is a clear link between match-fixing and corruption, and it can involve transnational criminal organisations;
- the aim of match-fixing used to be to qualify for certain competitions or get the “extra point” while nowadays the aim is more and more to profit from traditional and online gambling, betting often through illegal and irregular betting operators (in Asia). It is used for quick and important financial gains or for financing criminal actions;
- match-fixing can be national or transnational, involving more than one person (players, coach, referee), using cash incentives and criminal methods (blackmail, threats);



- Europol recently mentioned that 680 games, among them 380 in Europe, are under investigation, but this concerns several years and a fair part of these cases were already known to the public. UEFA has monitored the betting patterns of 31,000 games every year (UEFA and national competitions), around 0.4% have suspicious betting patterns (which does not always mean the games were fixed). These figures do not include lower leagues, friendly games, match-fixing without betting purposes, betting under the radar (small amounts) which are not monitored and where also match-fixing may take place;
- there is particularly high risk for match-fixing in the lower leagues (players with low salaries are easier to corrupt); friendly games; regions with developed illegal betting, regions with history of corruption in the society; countries without anti-match-fixing programmes;
- possible solutions: appropriate legal/regulatory framework, including international instruments; dissuasive sanctions; co-operation between the different stakeholders (sport, law enforcement, betting operators); prevention.
- prevention is cheaper, easier and more efficient than repression.

The importance of prevention in the fight against corruption

Sylvia Schenk presented the prevention dimension in tackling match-fixing in sport and the importance of risk management. She raised the following key points:

- risk-management is crucial for sport with regard to match-fixing: due to the prevalence of incidents in the past and the probability of it happening again;
- it takes two for corruption and thus for match-fixing in sport: the bribe payer (quite often criminals from outside) and the bribe taker. Manipulators come always from inside sport.
- it is difficult to detect corruption or to prove it: victims and damages are not obvious and maybe will stay hidden for ever;
- corruption starts on a small scale for example with small gifts or favours – players and others may not notice it in the beginning;
- prevention in sport is not just a matter of rules and regulations. It requires
 - education (explaining the rules and why they are important);
 - demonstrating good examples (in particular by coaches);
 - control in risky situations;
 - sanctions when rules are not respected.
- Prevention is part of responsible leadership (for clubs, for associations, for leagues) and is necessary to protect football.

Session 2. Focus on gambling

Ezéchiél Abatan, European Professional Football Leagues EPFL

Prof. Dr. med. Jens Reimer, Center for Interdisciplinary Addiction Research, University of Hamburg

Betting in Europe: legal framework and financial aspects

Ezéchiél Abatan presented the particularities of the legal framework regulating betting in Europe and the financial aspects it involves. The betting industry shows a trend of expansion, due to internet and development of ICT. The following important notes were made:

- there are different levels of regulations on sport betting in Europe: national laws (65%) or regulations of leagues/federations;
- legislation on match-fixing ranges from general offences in common law to specific and very detailed provisions dealing with sport offences;
- there is a need for the criminalisation of match fixing across Europe and protection of integrity of sport.



- EPFL instruments on betting:
 - The EPFL Football Manifesto,
 - The EPFL Code of Conduct on Sports Betting Integrity,
 - The EPFL Betting Operators Standards.
- Financial aspects of betting: 36 % of funds from lotteries go to sports.

Problematic gambling – are professional football players particularly at risk?

Jens Reimer provided an overview on diagnostic criteria for problematic and pathological gambling, risk factors for development of a gambling problem, prevalence rates for gambling and prevention strategies in the setting of professional soccer together with selected pilot projects. Mr Reimer noted that there were no larger studies on pathological gambling in professional soccer players, but based on risk factors and own data, it can be assumed that prevalence rates in this group are higher than in the general population. Mr Reimer also stressed, that pathological gambling is not necessarily associated with match fixing, but risk for involvement can increase through pathological gambling. He recommended early intervention strategies in professional soccer clubs specifically for gambling and mental health in general.

Session 3. How European football associations respond to match-fixing

Graham Peaker, UEFA

Dr. Holger Blask, DFL Deutsche Fußball Liga GmbH

The UEFA approach to tackling match-fixing in European football

Graham Peaker pointed to the specifics of the match-fixing in football, betting patterns related to match-fixing and the means used by UEFA for prevention of match-fixing. The following key points were of note:

- Match-fixing can be a form of money laundering – match-fixers are individuals from the world of organised crime.
- Over € 500 billion is bet annually on sport, worldwide. The match-fixers place massive bets in the Asian betting market (up to € 1'000'000). A club can receive between € 300'000 to € 500'000 by playing to a pre-arranged result.
- Match-fixing often occurs when a club, a player or a referee has financial problems or players' salaries have not been paid for months. There is always someone on the pitch involved in a fixed match.
- UEFA measures against match-fixing:
 - o awareness raising activities for players; referees; coaches and administrators,
 - o cooperation with law enforcement,
 - o reporting platform,
 - o sanctions, ban on exercising any football related activity.

EPFL Code of conduct and other strategic documents

Dr Holger Blask presented the instruments of EPFL for promoting the integrity in European football:

- EPFL football betting manifesto.
- The EPFL Code of Conduct on Sports Betting Integrity that sets out standards to tackle corrupt betting practices such as match-fixing. According to the Code of Conduct, the member leagues should implement the standards in their internal acts. Namely, EPFL leagues should protect the integrity of sport, co-operate with law enforcement in investigation, appoint a Designated Person; ensure appropriate actions are undertaken when there are



offences; prepare education/awareness action plan on integrity issues; monitor betting operators activities.

- EPFL Betting Operators Standards – requires from betting operators to co-operate and assist the EPFL leagues in prevention and fight against fraud as well as preserving integrity of member leagues' competitions.

Session 4. Different examples of prevention of match-fixing

Juergen Paepke, DFL Deutsche Fußball Liga GmbH

David Folker, DataCo UK

Vittorio Angelaccio, Italian Lega Pro

Guido Camera, Italian Lega Serie B

Severin Moritzer, Austrian Association for protecting the integrity of sport

Prevention of match-fixing in Germany

Juergen Paepke presented the project for prevention of match-fixing which has been implemented with Deutscher Fussball-Bund DFB, TI Germany and other partners since 2010. The first phase from August 2010 to December 2012 was focused on development of training material, brochures, flyers, etc. The follow-up project activities are training of young players, training of trainers, distribution of flyers, monitoring and learning. He pointed out the key elements of the project:

- the motto of the project is “Don't fix the game! Your sport. Your career. Your responsibility”,
- the objectives are to inform about dangers of gambling addiction, create sense of responsibility, enact codes of behaviour in risk situations,
- the focus is on prevention: to train and educate at a young age in order to avoid young players to get involved with match-fixing,
- the target groups are players, coaches, referees, officials, relatives,
- an Ombudsman has been appointed as a mechanism for reporting match-fixing. The ombudsman who is professional lawyer and gives advice to anybody who wants to report a match-fixing case.

Prevention of match-fixing in the UK

David Folker spoke about the relationship between sport and betting in the UK and measures to preserve integrity in the football leagues:

- DataCo, which is a central licensing agency for betting amongst other functions, is the first point of contact on integrity issues between betting companies and the 4 UK professional football leagues.
- Betting companies have an enormous amount of political lobbying power. Betting can be used for money-laundering.
- There are some challenges that should be considered within the framework of prevention of match-fixing:
 - there are different rules for football actors for betting on football in the UK. In England: one cannot bet on **own** competition and in Scotland: one cannot bet on **any** football competition,
 - football takes sponsorship money from betting,
 - there are no rules on cross-ownership (betting people involved in football organisation). Should there be? Should players have shareholdings in betting companies?



- Under-age competitions should be excluded from betting. They are vulnerable to match-fixing: there is a lot of interest in Asian markets, they are not monitored as effectively and easily manipulated.
- In the UK betting companies are obliged to report if a sport's rules are broken but betting companies go offshore to gain tax advantages and circumvent these rules
- Measures implemented in the UK:
 - an Integrity Round Table Forum has been set up,
 - a government regulator, the Gambling Commission was created in 2007,
 - compulsory integrity training is implemented in cooperation with the federation and players' union.

Prevention of match-fixing in Italy

Vittorio Angelaccio pointed out to the problem of match-fixing in football: 40 fixed matches took place in the 2010/2011 season, out of which 14 matches were played in Lega Pro. The national territory is no longer relevant for criminals, there's a need to coordinate the actions between governments, law enforcement, sporting institutions, exchange information and work in a coordinated way. He gave a comprehensive overview of the prevention program against match-fixing developed by Lega Pro:

- *The prevention program consists of:*
 - Monitoring of all matches in collaboration with Sportradar, by use of IT technology (FDS Tool).
 - Control, prevention, training, education for managers, referees, football players (integrity workshops).
 - Integrity Tour carried out in 12 Italian cities (March – April 2012); Second integrity tour scheduled in 2013 in 69 cities/clubs.
 - The focus is on youth, stronger measures are needed for better prevention.
 - Integrity officers, Ethics code, Ethics committee have been introduced.
 - Cooperation with law enforcement.
 - Results: each suspicious situation is being notified; football players have proven to be more aware.

Guido Camera stressed that match-fixing undermines the regularity of sport competitions. He presented the work of Serie B in promoting the integrity of sport. Serie B is responsible to preserve the regularity of the competitions organised, in their capacity to represent all the competing football teams. This implies measures for prevention and fight against match-fixing. Mr Camera pointed to the experiences from the "Cremona case", a court proceeding on match-fixing in which Serie B was involved. To prevent match-fixing, Serie B started educational and informative measures that should be extended in long term program for prevention of match-fixing.

Prevention of match-fixing in Austria

Severin Moritzer presented the Austrian approach in prevention of match-fixing, the platform "Play Fair Code – For Integrity in Sports". In early summer 2012 intensive activities regarding the issue of match-fixing started in Austria with the establishment of the Association for Protecting the Integrity in Sport. The association was founded by the Austrian Ministry of Sports, the Austrian Football Federation and the Austrian Football League. The platform „Play Fair Code – For Integrity in Sports” deals with the following issues:

- Prevention (Education, Training and Awareness Raising)
- Monitoring
- Contact- Point (Ombudsman)



Raising awareness was defined as the key premise for successful prevention. In the prevention field a 45 minutes training & education tool was developed that is in a roll-out stage for the top-level football clubs in Austria. Within the training sessions players, coaches and club officials are informed and trained about how the international betting mafia tries to undermine professional football worldwide. It is a crucial concern of the training sessions to pinpoint the potential consequences for every individual football player who is involved in match fixing. Special footage from a TV documentary including interviews with an involved former football professional as a well as with experts from UEFA and police authorities demonstrates the threats of match-fixing. In the near future a spin-off of the basic training module will be released for young players as well as for other sporting disciplines.



Pierre Cornu: Match-fixing: what's at stake?



Prevention of match-fixing in Germany: Carsten Thiel von Herff (Ombudsman)

Appendices

- Appendix I Meeting agenda
- Appendix II List of participants



Appendix 1 Meeting agenda

Staying on Side: How to Stop Match-Fixing, Kick-off meeting, 21 March 2013, Hotel Abion, Berlin

Thursday 21st March 2013

10.30 - 11.00 Registration of participants

11.00 - 11.30 Welcome and opening

Emanuel Medeiros, CEO, EPFL

Robin Hodess, Group Director of Research and Knowledge, TI-S

Juergen Paepke, Director of Legal Department, DFL

11.30 - 13.00 Session 1: Match-fixing: what's at stake? (Juergen Paepke, DFL)

- *Staying on side: football leagues and anti-corruption organisations team up to prevent match-fixing (Anja Osterhaus, TI-S)*
- *Match-fixing – an introduction (Pierre Cornu, CIES)*
- *The importance of prevention in fight against corruption (Sylvia Schenk, TI-S)*

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 14.45 Session 2: Focus on gambling (Juergen Paepke, DFL)

- *Betting in Europe: legal framework and financial aspects (Ezéchiel Abatan, EPFL)*
- *Problematic gambling – are professional football players particularly at risk (Prof. Dr. med. Jens Reimer, Center for Interdisciplinary Addiction Research, University of Hamburg)*

14.45 - 15.30 Session 3: How European football associations respond to match-fixing (Sylvia Schenk, TI-S)

- *The UEFA approach to tackling match-fixing in European football (Graham Peaker, UEFA)*
- *EPFL Code of conduct and other strategic documents (Dr. Holger Blask, DFL)*

15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 - 18.00 Session 4: Different examples of prevention of match-fixing (Jair Bertoni, EPFL)

- *Prevention of match-fixing in Germany (Juergen Paepke, DFL/Carsten Thiel von Herff, ombudsman of DFB and DFL)*
- *Prevention of match-fixing in the UK (David Folker, Football DataCo)*
- *Prevention of match-fixing in Italy (Vittorio Angelaccio, Lega Pro/Guido Camera, Serie B)*
- *Prevention of match-fixing in Austria (Severin Moritzer, Austrian Association for Protecting the Integrity in Sport)*

19.00 Dinner



Appendix 2 List of participants

Name and surname	Organisation
Ezéchiél Abatan	European Professional Football Leagues EPFL
Michael Anagnostou	Super League Greece
Vittorio Angelaccio	Lega Italiana Calcio Professionistico
Jo Bergsvand	Norwegian Professional Football League
Jair Bertoni	European Professional Football Leagues EPFL
Marcelo Moriconi Bezerra	Transparency International Portugal
Alexander Bielefeld	Supporters-Direct
Dr. Holger Blask	DFL Deutsche Fußball Liga GmbH
Guido Aldo Carlo Camera	Lega Nazionale Professionisti Serie B, Italy
Giovanni Colombo	Transparency International Italy
Pierre Cornu	International Centre for Sports Studies Switzerland
Eïssa Dini	EU Athletes
Martin Endemann	Football Supporters Europe
David Folker	Football DataCo Ltd UK
Jens Futterknecht	Deutscher Fussball-Bund DFB
Nick Garlick	EUROPOL
Peaker Graham	UEFA
Tobias Hecht	Transparency International Germany
Dr. Jens Kalke	Centre for Interdisciplinary Addiction Research University of Hamburg
Andreas Kuhn	Expert/former member of UEFA
Emanuel Medeiros	European Professional Football Leagues EPFL
Panagiota Mentzi	Transparency International Greece
Severin Moritzer	Association for Protecting the Integrity in Sport Austria
Jose Carlos Oliveira	Liga Portuguesa de Futebol Profissional
Juergen Paepke	DFL Deutsche Fußball Liga GmbH
Jérôme Perlemuter	Ligue de Football Professionel France
Prof. Dr. med. Jens Reimer	Centre for Interdisciplinary Addiction Research University of Hamburg
Ulrike Spitz	Transparency International Germany
Marcin Stefanski	Polish Professional Football League
Markus Stenger	Deutscher Fussball-Bund DFB
Michael Tattersall	The Football League UK
Nikolaos K. Theodorou	Transparency International Greece
Dr. Carsten Thiel von Herff	Thiel von Herff Attorneys
Laura Thoma	DFL Deutsche Fußball Liga GmbH
Rugile Trumpyte	Transparency International Lithuania
Peter van Veen	Transparency International UK
Nina Wiesehomeier	Transparency International Portugal
Daniela Wurbs	Football Supporters Europe
Robin Hodess	TI Secretariat
Deborah Unger	TI Secretariat
Anja Osterhaus	TI Secretariat
Sylvia Schenk	TI Secretariat
Emilija Taseva	TI Secretariat
Thomas Coombes	TI Secretariat
Samira Lindner	TI Secretariat
Anne Pasquet	TI Secretariat

