

# MATCH FIXING

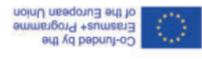
Partners:



Initiative:



Support:



www.tpreg-training.eu  
www.pned.ipdj.gov.pt

TRAINING ON PROTECTED REPORTING FOR PROFESSIONAL AND GRASSROOTS SPORT



## ~~MATCH FIXING~~

### MATCH FIXING

Match Fixing consists of irregularly influencing the course of the result of a sporting event, with the aim of obtaining personal or institutional, economic or sporting advantage, for yourself or for others, removing all or part of the uncertainty normally associated with the result of a competition.

### MACOLIN CONVENTION

Created in 2014 by the Council of Europe, the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Macolin Convention) encourages the creation of legal and practical organisational frameworks to combat the phenomenon of match-fixing. It has entered into force in September 2019.



## THE PHENOMENON OF MATCH FIXING ...

The manipulation of results is as old as sport itself. The first cases of cheating in sport date from the Olympic Games of Antiquity. Recently, the problem of manipulating results has taken on a new dimension. The internet boom has contributed to a proliferation of (legal and illegal) online sports betting firms that, combined with a series of weaknesses in sports regulation and governance, have created structures conducive to the infiltration of organised crime in sport. The Mafia, Asian triads, and crime syndicates see prime opportunities in the sports betting market to bet enormous sums in legal or illegal betting firms, and then bribe and/or threaten referees, players or athletes. Consequently, the manipulation of results has become associated with criminal activities such as tax evasion, corruption, fraud and money laundering, aggravating the sports aspect of the problem, to a problem of organised crime.



### THE IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING

Due to the complexity and global nature of the phenomenon, the fighting against match-fixing requires the active engagement of all sports participants. Therefore, codes of conduct and disciplinary rules for all sports include the obligation to report any suspicion, approach, tentative, or case of match-fixing.

To promote safety channels for reporting, Sport Governance Bodies have launched Reporting Platforms and hot lines. For more information about safety reporting, see the T-PREG website.

*This isn't right,  
but I fear for my family...  
what should I do?*

### HOW THE MANIPULATION OF RESULTS WORKS

Organised crime members, directly or through intermediaries (from the world of sport or unconnected to the sector), contact sports actors and first approach them in a friendly way, taking advantage of their susceptibility. Sports actors agree to get involved in a manipulation scheme and their handlers' approach becomes increasingly aggressive. At this stage, the sports actors are at the mercy of their handlers. Blackmail and physical threats to the person being manipulated or their families, are strategies commonly used by the handlers.



*I bet a heap of money on how  
you will lose the first set  
in the game tomorrow.  
Can I rely on you?*



Bet in Asia



African team



Game in Latin America



Online operator based in Europe

### HOW THE NEW BETTING MARKET WORKS

Currently, a person may bet online, for example from Asia, on an African football team winning a game played in Latin America, through an online betting operator based in Europe. In this new scenario, the person betting is no longer limited to the traditional 1x2 bet, and may bet on specific events in a game, such as; how many points a basketball player will score; who will be the first player to get a yellow card in a game of football; or who will win the first set in a game of tennis. Although the problem of manipulating results is not new, the boost given by new technologies and the expansion of the sports betting market online, has lent a new and growing scale to the problem, opening the way for critical changes in the panorama of this industry.