Criminal Threats and International Answers in the Global Sports Industry

Milan, Italy,
12/13 December 2014
Match Fixing and Illegal Betting

Protecting sport from corruption
(especially match fixing)
is mostly about **PREVENTION**

John Abbott,
INTERPOL
What is ‘match-fixing’
MANIPULATION OF SPORTS COMPETITIONS

Intentional arrangement, act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a sports competition in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the aforementioned sports competition with a view to obtaining an undue advantage for oneself or for others.

Council of Europe Convention on the manipulation of sports competitions, 18.09.2014
What is ‘match-fixing’?

Improperly influencing the result or course of the event for advantage
Match fixing or manipulation for:

- Sporting advantage;

- For financial gain – frequently through irregular betting on the legal market, or illegal betting.
Match-fixing in sport:

How big a problem is it?
What is the nature of the problem?

This.......?
Or this....
Match Manipulation:
A SIGNIFICANT GLOBAL THREAT
SPORTS most AFFECTED BY CORRUPTION recently:

- Football
- Cricket
- Tennis
- Horse Racing

also  Badminton, Cycling, Handball, Ice Hockey, Snooker, Sumo wrestling, Volleyball

.....and so on....
Match-fixing in sports has been adversely affected by:

- Globalisation;
- Developments in communications;
- Developments in betting markets;
- Organised Crime (professional criminal networks) involvement;
- Failure of many ‘authorities’ to do anything, or the right things.
Question: Why have professional criminals (Organised Crime) got involved in match fixing?

Answer: Because it is EASIER than most other types of criminality!
What does the Professional Criminal think?

- Criminals look for high profit and low risk;
- Criminals look for anonymity;
- Criminals look for and exploit easy targets (especially, naive sports people, absence of effective sport regulations and their implementation);
- Criminals look for absence of legislation and ineffective supervision and regulation of gambling;
- Criminals look for limited law enforcement capability.
### Drug Dealer v Match Fixer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Drug Trafficker/Dealer</th>
<th>Match Fixer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Skill</strong></td>
<td>Multiple skills</td>
<td>Comparatively simple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Profit</strong></td>
<td>Enormous</td>
<td>Enormous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mobility</strong></td>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>High</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Risk</strong></td>
<td>Extremely High</td>
<td>Medium (or low)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Need</strong></td>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>Networking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>People dealing with</strong></td>
<td>Extremely Violent Criminals / addicts</td>
<td>Athletes / referees / officials / bookies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Penalty</strong></td>
<td>Death, long prison sentence</td>
<td>Few years imprisonment – possibly!</td>
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MODUS OPERANDI of FIXERS

How do the criminals operate?
How does a fixer make the approach?
Who are the main targets for fixers??

Changing ALL the time!!
VULNERABILITIES – exploited by criminals
(are we protecting sporting integrity?)
Â Inadequate legislation;
Â Betting opportunities increased;
Â National sporting governing bodies often naive, in denial (and in some cases colluding);
Â Not seen as a law enforcement priority;
Â Difficult to detect/investigate/prosecute;
Â Smart criminals; global reach;
Â Plenty of targets – many naive (unworldly);
Â Bad guys choose when, where, who and how.
How should we tackle match fixing?
INTERPOL and its 190 member countries

‘Connecting Police for a safer world’
INTERPOL – tackling match fixing

• IMEST – support to major sporting events;
• Anti Match Fixing Task Force (football);
• INTERPOL – FIFA Training, Education and Prevention Initiative;
• INTERPOL and the International Olympic Committee;
• Operation ‘SOGA’.
The combined five Operation SOGA waves have resulted in:

- The arrest of more than 8400 people,
- The seizure of almost USD 40 million in cash, and
- The closure of some 3400 illegal gambling dens that handled an estimated USD $5.7 billion worth of bets.
IMPACT?
PREVENTION...

....is the key
INTERPOL’s framework to tackle match-fixing
Protecting integrity in sport

- Enhancing PREVENTION
- Building PARTNERSHIPS
- Sharing INFORMATION
- Improving COORDINATION
- Being more PRO-ACTIVE

...nationally, regionally, and globally.
INTERPOL’s framework to tackle match-fixing
PARTNERSHIPS (national level)

- Government;
- Sports Governing Bodies;
- Gambling Regulator;
- Law Enforcement;
- Betting Companies (and monitoring organisations);
- Sport Participants (stakeholders such as players, referees, administrators, owners);
- Relevant NGOs (eg Sportaccord, Transparency International).
INFORMATION (national level)

Â We all need the best possible information – wide search for sources, nationally and internationally;

Â Identify what information is needed and where to get it from (Information Requirement);

Â Collection, storage, assessment, analysis, sharing (needs protocols) and use of information;

Â Reporting mechanisms;

Â Betting monitoring.
CO-ORDINATION (national level)

- ‘National Platform’ to protect integrity in sport;
- Develops the national strategy;
- Oversees implementation of the strategy;
- SPOC’s (to build trust and confidence);
- Crisis management (the ‘what ifs’);
- Prevention, training and awareness plans – identification and implementation.
PRO-ACTIVITY (national level)

- Identify barriers and solutions relevant to my country – in other words, do things!
- Disruption methods;
- Investigations;
- Training of investigators (police) and ‘fact finders’ (sports disciplinary);
- Reporting mechanisms;
- Media Strategy;
- Integrity officer for EACH sport, nationally.
PREVENTION (national level)

- Relevant Legislation and powers;
- Good Governance of sports governing bodies,
- Sports Regulations that are fit for purpose and implemented (Code of Conduct, investigation and disciplinary procedures, Club Licensing, emphasis on integrity);
- Betting ‘controls’;
PREVENTION (national level)

- Contractual requirements relating to (no) corruption in sport;
- Clear guidance on match fixing, corruption – zero tolerance;
- Training and Awareness (Recognise, Resist, Report or similar);
- Establish a national system to deal with corruption in sport (or amend/develop an existing one).
FINAL THOUGHTS

Å Leadership and planning;
Å Work on the basis it will happen here, in my sport;
Å Systems to ensure IMPLEMENTATION;
Å Build TRUST;
Å Protect sports from corruption and criminals;
Å Where does ‘sport autonomy’ sit with this?
PREVENTION....

....is the key

THANK YOU