

THE FIGHT AGAINST MANIPULATION OF COMPETITION

Manipulation of competition, particularly linked with irregular or illegal betting, attacks the very foundations of sport. It erodes the integrity and credibility of sport and jeopardises its healthy development.

But what exactly is “irregular” and “illegal” betting?

- **Irregular betting** refers to all sports betting activity that is inconsistent with the usual or anticipated patterns of the specific market. Such activity can be monitored by sports organisations.
- **Illegal betting** refers to activities undertaken by betting operators that are not allowed under the applicable law of the jurisdiction where the consumer is located. Only government and police authorities have the mandate and the necessary instruments to tackle this particular scourge.

Betting on sport is not negative in and of itself. Legal betting is one way the public can demonstrate their attachment to sports and athletes; and the services offered by national lotteries and private operators are one of the main means of financing sport in many countries. ***The problem occurs when betting leads to the manipulation of competitions.***

Irregular or illegal betting has yet to be detected at any Olympic Games, but we know the day will eventually come. That is why we must be vigilant and ensure that measures are in place to limit its effect and discourage any recurrence.

The IOC first took preventive measures to tackle the problem in 2006. These measures can essentially be broken down into three categories:

- **Safeguarding**
- **Awareness-raising**
- **Cooperation**

Safeguarding the integrity of the Olympic Games:

2006:

- Amendment to IOC Code of Ethics forbids all participants in the Olympic Games from betting on Olympic events

2008 Beijing Olympic Games:

- IOC monitors betting activities at the Olympic Games for the first time using FIFA's Early Warning System (EWS)
- For the first time, a clause is added to entry forms obliging athletes and the delegation members of National Olympic Committees to refrain from betting on the Olympic Games
- All events monitored, no irregular patterns discovered

2010 Vancouver Olympic Games:

- Clause in the entry form once again obliges athletes and the delegation members of National Olympic Committees to refrain from betting on the Olympic Games
- International Sports Monitoring (ISM) monitors all events for suspicious betting activity in conjunction with over 300 legal betting companies. No irregular patterns discovered

2012 London Olympic Games:

- Clause in the entry form obliges, in addition to the athletes and NOC delegations, the delegation members from International Federations (IFs) to refrain from betting on the Olympic Games
- ISM monitors all betting activities on events at the London 2012 Olympic Games

- IOC, the organisers of London 2012 and the UK Gambling Commission set up a Joint Assessment Unit (JAU) for the prevention, assessment and investigation of betting activities on the Olympic Games
- All events monitored, no irregular patterns discovered

2014 Sochi Olympic Games:

- Clause in the entry form obliges athletes and delegation members from NOCs and IFs to refrain from betting on the Olympic Games
- Integrity Betting Intelligence System (IBIS) monitors all betting activities on the events at the Olympic Games
- IOC and Russian authorities work closely together for the prevention, assessment and investigation of betting activities on the Olympic Games
- All events monitored, no irregular patterns discovered

Raising awareness within the Olympic Movement:

December 2007:

- IOC Executive Board decides to share rules and experiences with sports federations, especially in the area of monitoring

2008:

- IOC begins raising awareness of the issue among the more-than 200 National Olympic Committees and the IFs ahead of the Beijing Games, e.g. at the Chefs de Mission meetings for NOCs

24 June 2010:

- The IOC organises its first sports movement awareness seminar on challenges inherent to betting and the Olympic Movement. Participants include betting operators and government experts. Seminar results in a set of recommendations addressed to the IOC, NOCs and IFs in the areas of regulation, education and prevention, monitoring and cooperation with governments

2010 Singapore Summer Youth Olympic Games (YOG) and 2012 Innsbruck Winter YOG

- First interactive educational programme delivered to YOG athletes and their entourage members

2012 London Olympic Games

- Interactive information tools placed in the Olympic Village for athletes and other accredited people

2013 Asian Youth Games

- Interactive educational programme offered to athletes and their entourage members

2014 Sochi Olympic Games and Nanjing Youth Olympic Games

- Interactive information/education tools placed in the Olympic Village for athletes and other accredited people

Ongoing:

- IOC encourages Olympic Movement stakeholders to adopt rules forbidding irregular and illegal betting and to develop educational and prevention plans
- A [dedicated section](#) on the IOC website provides an overview of the risk of cheating in connection with betting activities, and offers links to the IOC's educational tools in this field

Cooperation among the Olympic family and with the public authorities:

October 2009:

- Olympic Congress calls on governments to “recognise that close collaboration and action in the fight to put an end to illegal and irregular betting and match fixing is essential, both to Olympic-accredited events and to the wider world of sport competition”

24 June 2010:

- First seminar organised by IOC on sports betting results in a set of recommendations calling for closer cooperation with governments and police investigation agencies

1 March 2011:

Under the aegis of the IOC, the Founding Working Group (FWG) on the Fight Against Irregular and Illegal Betting in Sport is established. It offers an opportunity for discussions and exchanges of views between representatives from the sports movement, governments, international organisations such as the Council of Europe, INTERPOL and UNODC, and sports betting operators. All confirm the importance of coordinated action in the fight to preserve sport's integrity.

2011 / 2013:

- FWG, representatives and experts meet regularly to consider ways to combat irregular and illegal betting, with particular emphasis on three themes: 1) education, 2) monitoring and the exchange of information, and 3) intelligence and legislation

14 May 2013:

- FWG calls for the establishment of an Olympic Movement monitoring system that would be placed year-round at the service of all IFs during major competitions to keep tabs on and share information regarding suspicious betting activity.

3 November 2013:

- At a so-called Olympic Summit, key Olympic Movement stakeholders agree to increase coordination, under the leadership of the IOC, in the fight against match-fixing and illegal betting. The IOC is tasked with setting up a special unit within the IOC to coordinate efforts in this regard. The new unit is to work on risk-prevention and dissemination of information, and will support the harmonisation of rules for the Olympic Movement and sports world in general. The rules will be based on examples from some of the IFs already working on this issue, including FIFA and the ITF's Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU), which have applied severe sanctions for violations.

14 December 2013:

- Stepping up efforts to protect clean athletes from manipulation or related corruption, the IOC Executive Board creates a fund of USD 10 million and approves the establishment of an Olympic Movement monitoring tool to collate alerts and information on manipulation through betting. The “Integrity Betting, Intelligence System” (IBIS) will collate and distribute intelligence and research for IFs.

30 January 2014:

- The IOC announces that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with INTERPOL, thereby widening the scope of previous joint activities and allowing for future collaboration on security and protection of the integrity of competitions at the Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games. The MoU also envisages joint initiatives in the field of education and awareness-raising for both sports organisations and law enforcement agencies.