

RECOMMENDATIONS for the IOC Seminar
“Sports betting: A Challenge to be faced”
24 June 2010, Lausanne

The constituents of the Olympic Movement state that:

- Betting is part of sport since the beginning;
- sports betting is a way of demonstrating the public’s attachment to sports and athletes;
- sports betting, offered by national lotteries or private operators, is one of the most important means of financing sport;
- without sport, there is no sports betting;
- national legislation concerning the participation of sports betting operators to the financing of the sports movement is different from one country to another; however everything possible must be done to ensure a fair return from the betting operators, not only for the organisers of sports events, but more generally for the development of sport;
- everything possible must be done to ensure the integrity of sports competitions.

Within this framework, the following recommendations are proposed:

A. It is recommended that all constituents of the Olympic Movement (the IOC, IFs and NOCs), under their respective competences, adopt internal legislation that includes:

1. the prohibition of participants in any sports event, from all forms of participation in, or support for, betting related to competitions in their sport;
2. an obligation for participants to safeguard the integrity of sport by refraining from any attempt to influence the elements of a competition in a manner contrary to sporting ethics;
3. the prohibition for all participants to disclose confidential insider information on their sport;
4. a definition of “participants” in any competition that is as inclusive as possible, concerning all accredited individuals including athletes, judges, the athletes’ entourage, IF and NOC employees, officials and families, and the event organising committee and their entourage;
5. a disciplinary procedure in the case of a breach of sports rules, including an enquiry body, the right to be heard and to appeal, and a possible sanction in the event of such breaches;
6. guidelines concerning financial agreements with any betting operator, specifying that:
 - there is to be no use of the Olympic brand (nor use of any NOC emblem); no use of an IF’s Intellectual Property (IP) without prior agreement;
 - there is to be a strict respect of the game rules of the sport concerned;
 - there is to be no betting on events exclusively involving minors;
 - there is to be no betting on certain types of events and part of the competition;
 - there is to be involvement in financial partnerships only with betting operators that are prepared to fully cooperate and share data with the monitoring system being used (and/or which accept specifically to disclose personal data regarding betting);
7. an economic fair return from the betting operators, not only for the organisers of sports events, but also for the development of all sports.

B. It is recommended that all constituents of the Olympic Movement (the IOC, IFs and NOCs), under their respective competences, implement a Communication, Education and Prevention Programme that includes:

1. a plan for the media in order to communicate that the IOC, and the respective IF or NOC, are addressing the issue of betting in sport;
2. implementation of programmes that include the provision of information and educational material to athletes and their entourage, with a focus on young people, including full use of new media and the constituents' Athletes' Commissions, particularly during competitions;
3. An exchange of best practices between the constituents of the Olympic Movement (the IOC, IFs and NOCs);
4. the establishment of a confidential "hotline" for the athletes, athletes' entourage and others to pass on information if they are aware of a corruption or a threat to the integrity of sport.

C. It is recommended that, as a matter of urgency, the IOC establish a Working Group involving representatives from all constituents of the Olympic Movement to analyse the best way to monitor sports betting:

1. to provide information on irregular betting patterns, and to assist them in the event of suspicion of a breach of the rules and the integrity of sport, particularly in their relations with the betting operators, and with a view to possible disciplinary sanctions;
2. to provide monitoring of the Olympic Games, qualification events and other multi-sports games;
3. to facilitate monitoring of major IF competitions.

D. It is recommended to develop collaboration with the public authorities¹ (national and regional governments) and their agencies to:

1. promote legislation and public policies which:
 - contribute to preserving the integrity of sport and to the fight against corruption in sport;
 - ensure a fair return from the betting operators, not only for the organisers of sports events, but also more generally for the development of sport;
2. develop agreements with police investigation agencies, such as Interpol and Europol, particularly for cooperation with regard to criminal inquiries and the exchange of information in the event of suspicious betting patterns and/or breach of sports integrity rules.

¹ Copenhagen, 2009, Olympic Congress Recommendation 32, 'Governments should recognise that close collaboration and action in the fight to put an end to illegal and irregular betting, and match-fixing is essential, both in relation to Olympic accredited events and to the wider world of sport competition.'