Protecting the credibility and integrity of sport: Combating competition manipulation and related corruption

The International Olympic Committee’s (IOC) philosophy of protecting clean athletes and sports integrity was reaffirmed in December 2014 upon the adoption of Olympic Agenda 2020, the IOC’s strategic roadmap for the future of the Olympic Movement.

Olympic Agenda 2020 recommendations 15 and 16 refer to the IOC’s ultimate goal to protect clean athletes and the creation of two dedicated USD 10 million funds: one “to develop robust education and awareness programmes on the risks of match-fixing, any kind of manipulation of competitions and related corruption” and one for anti-doping research.

Under the IOC Ethics and Compliance Office, key initiatives related to preventing match-fixing, manipulation of competition and related corruption have been developed and implemented. These include defining the regulatory framework, developing and managing the Integrity and Compliance Hotline, the Integrity Betting Intelligence System (IBIS) and Capacity Building and Training.

One of the major threats to the credibility and integrity of sport is the manipulation of competition. In order to protect and promote sport as a model that encourages and fosters the best of human values, the IOC has established and implemented a number of priorities and actions to manage the risks posed by competition manipulation and corrupt behaviour. The objectives are to:

A. Improve governance through sport regulations and state legislation

- The IOC encourages and supports the development of sporting regulations that protect the integrity of sport, prevent competition manipulation and empower effective regulatory enforcement, particularly as a risk prevention measure in the organisation of sporting competitions. For instance, the IOC Code of Ethics forbids all participants at the Olympic Games from betting on Olympic events. For each edition of the Olympic Games, and the Youth Olympic Games, specific rules are published.
- Recognising the Council of Europe’s Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, the IOC supports national legislative provisions that enable the prosecution of criminal acts related to competition manipulation.

B. Raise awareness, build capacity and undertake training

- The IOC to organise regularly the International Forum for Sports Integrity (IFSI) as a global forum for governments, international organisations, betting operators and the sports movement after hosting a successful first edition in April 2015.
- With the support of INTERPOL, the IOC trains and assists sporting organisations and national law enforcement through workshops and tailored training material to effectively respond to integrity threats.
- An Integrity e-learning programme for Olympic athletes and officials is presently being developed and will launch ahead of the Olympic Games Rio 2016.
- The IOC promotes and continues to develop stakeholder-appropriate risk prevention tools including:
  - PlayFair Integrity Booth for use during Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games and other multi-sports events, which includes an interactive workshop, game and quiz.
  - PlayFair Code of Conduct “Protect your sport” available in 10 languages.

Below are listed a series of actions and developments initiated and/or implemented by the IOC to address these objectives.
C. Ensure Information Exchange and Investigative Capacities

- The IOC has reinforced its Integrity Betting Intelligence System (IBIS) and is enhancing monitoring and information exchange between law enforcement, sports organisations and betting operators/regulators. For more detailed information, read the IBIS Factsheet.
- Following the signature of an MOU with INTERPOL in 2014, the IOC is developing fact-finding processes and capacities within and across sports to enable sports to conduct disciplinary proceedings and for law enforcement authorities to conduct criminal proceedings in relation to competition manipulation;
- A framework for reporting of integrity breaches has been established with the creation and launch of the IOC’s Integrity and Compliance Hotline, which can be used to:
  - report suspicious approaches or activities related to competition manipulation; or
  - report infringements of the IOC Code of Ethics or other matters including financial misconduct or other legal, regulatory and ethical breaches over which the IOC has jurisdiction.

IOC Integrity Initiatives: Overview

Below includes an overview of the initiatives and actions listed above and implemented by the IOC to tackle the risks posed by competition manipulation and related corruption.

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