UNODC Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Economic Crime
INTRODUCTION

Corruption is a complex and multifaceted threat to the integrity of sport, often with transnational characteristics. It also poses a serious threat to the social and economic benefits of sport. Manifestations of corruption in the context of sport include fraud, money-laundering, abuse of authority, competition manipulation (also commonly known as match-fixing), illegal betting and is a significant issue that can also be found in the organization and delivery of sports events, the transfer of athletes and players, and the ownership and administration of sports organizations.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME

The overall objective of the UNODC Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Economic Crime is to support governments, sports organizations and relevant stakeholders to tackle corruption and economic crime in sport.

Specifically, the Programme’s aim is to support the effective implementation of resolutions 7/8 on Corruption in Sport and 8/4 on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption, adopted by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption¹.

THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND THE MANDATES FOR THE PROGRAMME

The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The Convention’s far-reaching approach and the mandatory character of many of its provisions are directly applicable to tackling corruption in sport, as highlighted in section 2 of the UNODC Global Report on Corruption in Sport.

The Conference of the States Parties (COSP) is the main policy-making body of the Convention, supporting States parties and signatories in their implementation of the Convention. Tackling corruption in sport has been an increasing area of interest for the Conference.

As its eighth session, held in Abu Dhabi in December 2019, the Conference of States agreed a set of commitments aimed at tackling corruption in sport through the adoption of resolution 8/4 on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption. This resolution built on the commitments made by the Conference at its seventh session, held in Vienna in 2017, which adopted resolution 7/8 on Corruption in sport.

The Conference of the States Parties (COSP) is the main anticorruption policymaking body established by the United Nations Convention against Corruption. It supports States parties in their implementation of the Convention and gives policy guidance to UNODC to develop and implement anti-corruption activities.

The mandate of UNODC to develop activities and initiatives to tackle corruption in sport stems from resolutions adopted unanimously by the Conference to tackle corruption in sport, namely:

» Resolution 8/4, on safeguarding sport from corruption, adopted by the Conference at its eighth session, in which it:
“Requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop, within its mandate, in close consultation with States parties and in cooperation with interested stakeholders, a comprehensive thematic study on safeguarding sport from corruption, including consideration of how the Convention can be applied to prevent and counter corruption in sport, to update training materials, guides and tools for Governments and sports organizations, to disseminate information and good practices and to develop projects and deliver technical assistance, upon request, to support the implementation of the present resolution and further strengthen measures against corruption in sport.”

» Resolution 7/8, on corruption in sport, adopted by the Conference at its seventh session in which it:

“Requests the Secretariat, within its mandate, to continue, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, partners and donors and in close consultation with States parties, to develop studies, training materials, guides and tools for Governments and sports organizations, and to disseminate information and good practices to further strengthen measures against corruption in sport;”

The UNODC Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Economic Crime has been developed by UNODC at the main mechanism through which to support the implementation of the above requests.
UNODC Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Economic Crime

The UNODC Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Economic Crime supports governments and sports organizations and related stakeholders in their efforts to tackle corruption and economic crime in sport through:

- Developing and implementing national, regional and international workshops and training programmes to support the effective prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption in sport.
- Enhancing understanding of corruption and economic crime in sport through the publication and dissemination of relevant tools, guides, and reports.
- Organizing awareness-raising events, such as conferences and seminars, at national, regional and international levels, on corruption and economic crime in sport.
- Supporting cooperation and exchange of information between criminal justice authorities, sports organizations and relevant stakeholders.
Relationships with Key Stakeholders

UNODC has privileged access to key anti-corruption stakeholders given its role as the Secretariat of the Convention’s Implementation Review Mechanism and has established a long-term productive working relationship with many of the 187 States parties to the Convention and relevant sports organizations. UNODC also maintains a network of over 100 regional and country offices which facilitates direct contact with relevant beneficiaries and stakeholders.

UNODC has signed cooperation agreements with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) aimed at tackling corruption in sport.

UNODC has developed an extensive network of relationships and maintains close relationships with leading stakeholders working the tackling corruption in sport in order to lead, contribute or support activities in this area. Such partners include:

- Asian Racing Federation Anti-Illlegal Betting Task Force
- Group of 20 Anti-Corruption Working Group
- International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport
- INTERPOL Match-Fixing Task Force (IMFTF)
- European Commission
- International Cricket Council (ICC)
- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
- International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA)
- World Rugby

UNODC is also a proud partner of the International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport (IPACS), which is a multi-stakeholder initiative bringing together sports organizations, governments and intergovernmental organizations to combine efforts for the fight against corruption in sport. This unique partnership provides a platform for dialogue with the aim to propose pragmatic solutions to the issue, while harnessing the expertise and experience of all actors.

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2 https://www.ipacs.sport/
RESULTS OF THE PROGRAMME

Since 2017, the UNODC Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Economic Crime has supported over 8500 officials and representatives of governments, sports organizations and related stakeholders from over 130 countries to tackle corruption and economic crime in sport.

Highlights of the Programme include:

• Development and launch of the UNODC Global Report on Corruption in Sport
• Development and launch of UNODC IOC tools including the Guides on Legal Approaches to Tackling Competition Manipulation, and Guide on Reporting Mechanisms in Sport
• Organizing three regional capacity and awareness raising events for the Association of South East Asian Nations, the Pacific and South Asia regions
• In collaboration with FIFA delivering the Global Integrity Programme for over 450 government officials and representatives of football associations from across the globe.

This Programme has also developed and implemented:

• Over 20 publications related to the collection and analysis of data to better understand corruption risks in sport.
• Over 71 capacity-building activities relevant to developing, implementing, or maintaining effective and coordinated anti-corruption strategies, policies or practices for tackling corruption in sport.
• Over 26 training opportunities for law enforcement officials, corruption prevention, and criminal justice authorities from over 130 countries on preventing, detecting, investigating, and prosecuting corruption in sport.
• Over 70 relevant activities that promote and enhance cooperation and the exchange of information and good practices among law enforcement, criminal justice authorities and corruption prevention authorities, lawmakers, and policymakers.
• Over 8 relevant activities that support the efforts aimed at identifying good practices to tackle and address the threats posed by organized crime to sport.
• Developing research, measuring, assessing, monitoring trends, and developing typologies aimed at improving understanding of the potential risks of corruption in sport.