



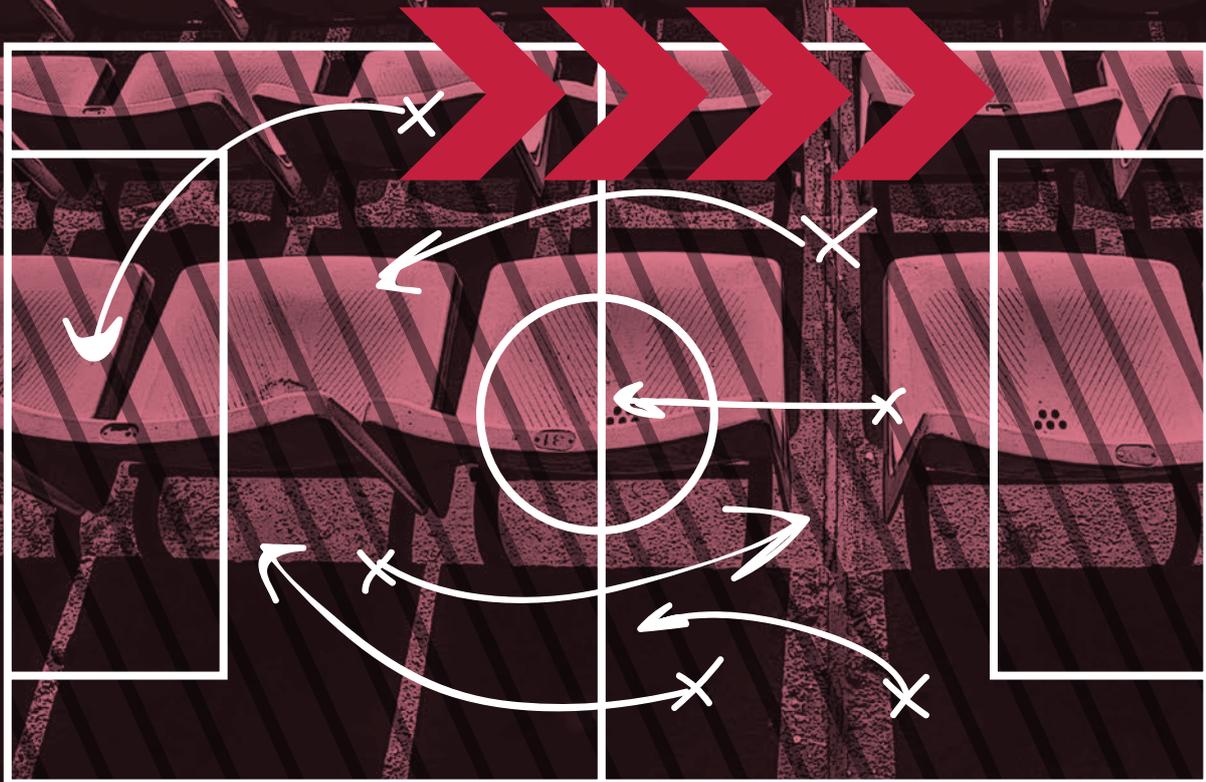
UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



GLOBAL REPORT ON CORRUPTION IN SPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



GLOBAL REPORT ON CORRUPTION IN SPORT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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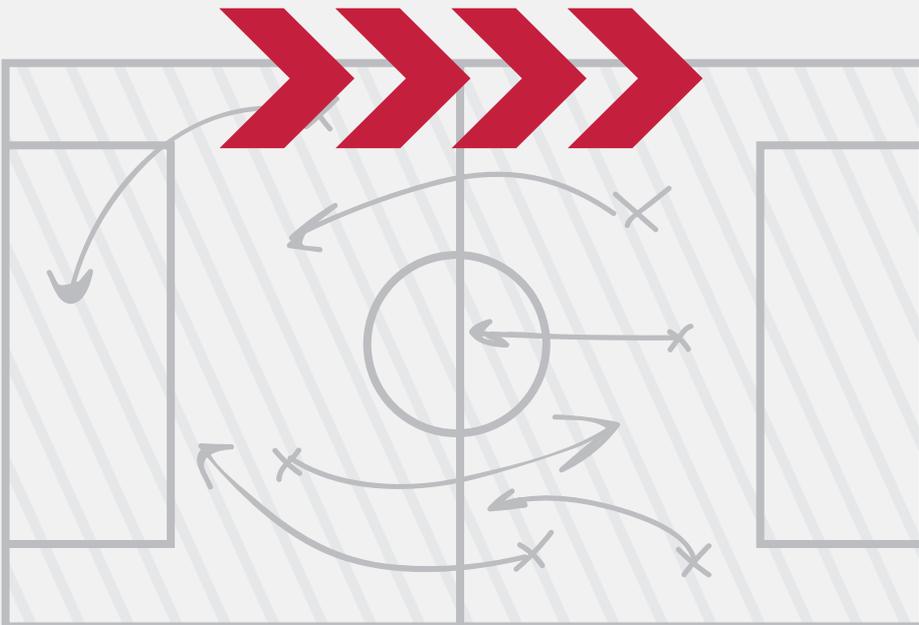


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GLOBAL REPORT ON CORRUPTION IN SPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

MAIN ISSUES

POSSIBLE RESPONSES

SECTION 1: EVOLUTIONS IN SPORT RELATED TO CORRUPTION

The sports sector has undergone comprehensive changes in recent decades. Globalization, a huge influx of money at the top level of professional sport, the rapid growth of legal and illegal sports betting and marked technological advances have transformed the way sport is played and consumed.

These factors have also had a major impact on corruption in sport, both in terms of its scale and its forms, and on the role played by international organizations, Governments and sports bodies in combating this activity.

Competition manipulation has become a significant problem in sport. Major evolutions in sport have made it more vulnerable to this type of corruption, with the risks becoming increasingly complex.

Corruption within sports organizations has been exposed on a broad scale, not least with regard to the awarding of hosting rights of major sport events. While steps are being taken, further framework strengthening is needed.

The role of organized crime groups in corruption in sport and the criminal infiltration of sports organizations has grown markedly as a result of the recent evolutions in sport. Criminal groups are exploiting vulnerabilities linked to development-related changes and the weaknesses of legislative and regulatory frameworks that govern sport.

The need to strengthen legislative and regulatory frameworks and tools has put the spotlight on sports administration and autonomy and how approaches must be developed to effectively combat corruption in sport.

- » Effectively implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including where appropriate, reviewing and updating legislation, regulations and rules to bring them in line with the principles of the Convention.
- » Develop comprehensive policies on anti-corruption in sport based on an assessment of the corruption risks faced, including those related to the organization of major sports events, competition manipulation, illegal betting and the involvement of organized crime groups.
- » Establish bodies at the international organization, Government and sport body levels that have clear responsibility for the prevention, detection, investigation and sanctioning of corruption in sport, ensuring they have the necessary independence, training and resources required to carry out their functions effectively.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

MAIN ISSUES

POSSIBLE RESPONSES

SECTION 2: APPLYING THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION TO SPORT

Corruption has emerged as a complex and multifaceted threat to the integrity of sport, with the transnationality of activity a key characteristic.

International organizations, Governments and sport bodies are increasingly responding to this threat and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as the only legal binding universal anti-corruption instrument, is a unique resource that they can use to combat corruption in sport and to enhance the credibility of sport.

As sport has evolved in recent decades, in terms of professionalism, globalization and accessibility, so the type of corruption that affects it and its scale has grown.

As a result, comprehensive legislative and regulatory frameworks and related tools are required to effectively combat corruption in all its forms.

These frameworks and tools at the Government, international organization and sports body levels, in jurisdictions around the world, need to be strengthened and developed in order to better tackle corruption in sport.

- » Effectively implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including where appropriate, reviewing and updating rules and regulations to bring them in line with the principles of the Convention.
- » Develop comprehensive policies on anti-corruption in sport based on an assessment of the corruption risks faced, including those related to the organization of major sports events, competition manipulation and illegal betting, and which negatively affect children, young athletes and other vulnerable groups.
- » Establish a body or bodies that have clear responsibility for the prevention, detection, investigation and sanctioning of corruption in sport, ensuring they have the necessary independence, training and resources required to carry out their functions effectively.
- » Support programmes, projects, task forces, expert groups and existing initiatives 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.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

MAIN ISSUES

POSSIBLE RESPONSES

SECTION 3: OVERVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES TO TACKLE CORRUPTION IN SPORT

Governments, international organizations and sports bodies have launched a range of frameworks, initiatives and tools aimed at countering corruption in sport.

Corruption offences in sport have been increasingly criminalized, standards of conduct for public officials and participants in the sport have been introduced, good governance has been promoted and specialized entities have been created to deal with various corruption prevention and detection issues.

Anti-corruption institutions in sport are in many ways still in their infancy. Tools originally designed for other purposes are often used to combat corruption in sport.

The search for optimal models of criminalization, models for the promotion of standards of conduct and good governance, and models for the establishment of specialized bodies is still ongoing.

The scope and focus of corruption solutions applied by Governments and sports organizations often vary considerably and the effectiveness of some solutions is questionable.

- » Develop comprehensive policies on combatting corruption in sport at the international, national and local levels.
- » Use a comprehensive and thoughtful approach to the criminalization of the most significant corruption offences in sport, reflecting the specifics of national legal systems and law enforcement contexts.
- » Establish a body or bodies that have clear responsibility for the prevention, detection, investigation and sanctioning of corruption in sport, ensuring that they have the necessary independence, training and resources required to carry out their functions effectively.
- » Introduce standards of conduct for government officials responsible for regulating sports, including but not limited to their interaction with national and international sports organizations, and for officials of sports organizations.
- » Without prejudice to the sports autonomy, promote good governance, improve human resources management, especially for positions considered especially vulnerable to corruption, and increase the transparency of decision-making processes and funding in sports organizations.
- » Support existing initiatives that promote and enhance cooperation and the exchange of information and good practices between law enforcement authorities, criminal justice authorities, corruption prevention authorities, lawmakers and policymakers, international organizations, sports organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

MAIN ISSUES

POSSIBLE RESPONSES

SECTION 4: DETECTION AND REPORTING CORRUPTION IN SPORT

Internal and external mechanisms to report and detect corruption in sport are increasingly used by Governments, sports bodies and international organizations around the world.

Journalists are also increasingly engaged in investigating and exposing corruption in sport.

The ability of Governments and sports organizations to detect corruption is hampered by a critical lack of human and technological resources and specialist skills.

Potential whistle-blowers are still discouraged from reporting corruption by the fear of retaliation or the belief that reporting will not make a difference.

Investigative journalists often face intimidation, attempts to undermine their professional credibility and threats to their lives.

- » Develop mechanisms for open, confidential and anonymous reporting of all forms of wrongdoing in sport, on the broadest possible scale, including stakeholders from outside of sport.
- » Design reporting mechanisms in such a way that they protect the identity and safety of reporting persons, witnesses and suspects, respect data privacy requirements and are based on principles enshrined within the rule of law.
- » Consider all forms of technology in the detection of corruption, including contractual agreements with data companies to monitor betting markets for suspicious activity and with betting operators to monitor sporting events for performance anomalies, to enable the sharing of personal information about wrongdoers.
- » Wherever possible, involve law enforcement authorities in criminal investigations relating to corruption in sport and promote cooperation between both relevant Governments and Governments and the private sector.
- » Establish a body or bodies within sports organizations that have a clear responsibility for the prevention, detection, investigation and sanctioning of proven acts of corruption. Provide them with the necessary independence, training and resources to fulfil this role effectively.
- » Encourage and enable free and independent media and investigative journalism, and ensure that all media reports are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

MAIN ISSUES

POSSIBLE RESPONSES

SECTION 5: GENDER AND CORRUPTION IN SPORT

Against a background of the increasing profile and popularity of amateur, semi-professional and professional women's sport, gender issues in sport are gradually becoming part of the national and international agenda.

The social and cultural norms that deter girls and women from playing sport, the biases and stereotypes relating to women's capacity to fulfil leadership roles and the lack of skill and experience that prevent women from accessing decision-making roles in sport are being increasingly acknowledged.

Corruption in sport poses a range of gender-specific threats to girls and women, most notably in the form of sexual harassment and abuse by those in positions of authority. A growing number of cases are being reported or uncovered, and brought to the attention of authorities and the public.

However, the exact nature and scale of this form of corruption is still unknown because of the challenges that exist in relation to the reporting of gender-based violence.

Inequality in pay leaves women in sport vulnerable to corruption on various levels, including in connection with betting-related competition manipulation.

A lack of representation of women in sport governance roles plays a part in hampering the fight against corruption in sport.

- » Increase investment in the development of women's sport and support equal opportunities for girls in sport, physical activity and physical education.
- » Strengthen legislation to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in sport.
- » Promote women to decision-making roles in sports organizations and build a pipeline for female candidates for governance roles.
- » Reduce the likelihood of women in sport engaging in corruption because of financial vulnerability by ensuring fair pay and considering supportive maternity leave policies.
- » Conduct empirical studies to enhance understanding of the risk factors, social norms and cultural traditions that influence women's participation in and resistance to different forms of corruption in sport.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

MAIN ISSUES

POSSIBLE RESPONSES

SECTION 6: ORGANIZED CRIME AND SPORT

Organized crime groups have long been involved in corruption in sport, but the transformation of sport in recent decades has acted a catalyst for a significant increase in the size and scale of this activity.

The involvement of organized crime in sport is widespread and takes place on a global scale. It is linked to competition manipulation, corruption in sports organizations, illegal betting, money-laundering, human trafficking and migrant smuggling in sport and other corruption in sport.

International organizations, Governments and sports bodies are taking steps to address this issue, including through the implementation of the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

While awareness is growing of how the evolution of sport has exposed it to corruption involving organized crime and of the international instruments that can help in the fight against this activity, legislative and regulatory frameworks and tools at the national and international levels focused on addressing this issue need to be strengthened.

The failure to effectively tackle the involvement of organized crime in sport is a serious threat not only to the integrity of sport but also to the social role of sport and the ethos and values that underpin it.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has made sport more vulnerable to corruption involving organized crime groups.

- » Enhance understanding of the interlinkages between corruption and organized crime in sport, including by undertaking comprehensive corruption threat assessments, continuing to raise awareness about the threat, and developing strategic, collective and coordinated responses.
- » Introduce preventive measures aimed at addressing the threat of corruption and organized crime, including the promotion of education and awareness-raising events for children and young adults.
- » Put in place comprehensive safeguarding policies and procedures to prevent and respond to any form of crime in sport, including abuse and exploitation perpetrated by organized criminal groups.
- » Use a multi-stakeholder approach in the fight against organized crime in sport, including public-private cooperation.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

MAIN ISSUES

POSSIBLE RESPONSES

SECTION 7: CORRUPTION AND ABUSE IN SPORT

The reporting of abuse in sport, a form of corruption in sport, is growing, with cases increasingly coming to the attention of the public, largely as a result of media reports on the subject.

International organizations, Governments and sports bodies are addressing this issue, strengthening their engagement with the subject and developing their approaches to ensuring safe sporting environments.

For example, FIFA has conducted an extensive review of abuse in sport as part of its consulting process for a proposed safe sport entity.

While more cases of abuse in sport are being reported, as societal attitudes change and the availability of reporting mechanisms increases, the incidence of this type of corruption in sport remains underreported.

In order to better combat abuse in sport and enhance the environment relating to reporting, the weaknesses of the societal, institutional, regulatory and legislative frameworks that are responsible for the underreporting of abuse need to be addressed.

- » Adopt clear and comprehensive legislation that prohibits all forms of violence, including the sale and sexual exploitation of children, in all contexts, including sport.
- » Make it mandatory for all sports institutions to have safeguarding policies and procedures in place, including the undertaking of background checks of any individuals working with children in sport .
- » Develop victim-centred frameworks that facilitate reporting of abuse cases and protect reporting persons, witnesses and victims.
- » In cases of investigations, prosecutions and sanctions, provide all-encompassing care, recovery and rehabilitation services and ensure that victims are consulted in the roll-out of such services.
- » Support and engage in data-gathering efforts on the extent of the sale and sexual exploitation of children in sport to ensure that responses are based on evidence.
- » Launch and support awareness-raising campaigns on safe sport and on how to prevent the violation of children's rights in the practice of sports.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

MAIN ISSUES

POSSIBLE RESPONSES

SECTION 8: UNDERSTANDING THE MANIPULATION OF SPORTS COMPETITION

Numerous initiatives focused on tackling competition manipulation have been launched at the national, regional and international levels.

International organizations, Governments and sports bodies are using different means to address the issue. A common theme is the promotion of cooperation between key stakeholders.

Significant efforts have been made by leading sports organizations, including the International Olympic Committee and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), to tackle competition manipulation.

The competition manipulation landscape is continually evolving and there is a need to address the impact of current trends, including the growth of betting and the development of e-sports and other technological advancements, in order to mitigate the risks posed to sport by competition manipulation.

People involved in competition manipulation are increasingly targeting youth sports, semi-professional competitions and women's sports, where betting is available but monitoring is limited, if not absent, and detection is difficult.

The impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has exacerbated the risk factors that lead to competition manipulation.

- » Support more effective application of existing legislation to competition manipulation or, where appropriate, support the development of specific legislation to criminalize competition manipulation.
- » Establish a national cooperation framework to promote cooperation, coordination and exchange of information between relevant government entities, in particular law enforcement and criminal justice authorities, and between sports governing bodies and sports betting entities to help detect, investigate, prosecute and disrupt competition manipulation.
- » Support assessments, analyses and investigations of the role of organized criminal groups in competition manipulation.
- » Strengthen coordination and cooperation between Governments and sports organizations at the multilateral and bilateral levels.
- » Continue and increase, where possible, the organization of awareness-raising sessions for employees from relevant government entities, sports organizations, betting operators and related stakeholders about the threat posed by competition manipulation.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

MAIN ISSUES

POSSIBLE RESPONSES

SECTION 9: ILLEGAL BETTING AND SPORT

International organizations, Governments and sports bodies are becoming increasingly aware of the scale of the problem of illegal betting and the money-laundering that it facilitates, and are taking action to address the issue and minimize the risks related to the activity.

Major sports betting operators, betting industry associations and monitoring companies are increasingly cooperating in activity aimed at minimizing the risks associated with illegal betting by sharing betting data and suspicious betting alerts with sports organizations.

Illegal betting on sport has become a global problem and the financial scale of the problem is such that illegal betting is a major driver of corruption in sport and a major channel for money-laundering, including by organized crime groups.

The situation is complicated by the use of innovative types of bets, the proliferation of online gambling and the growth of cryptocurrencies.

The transnationality of many illegal betting operations presents a challenge to authorities attempting to combat the activity, with illegal betting operators exploiting an uneven national legislation landscape and the greater anonymity provided by the Internet and cryptocurrency use.

- » Establish national platforms and contact points for international cooperation with sports bodies and other key stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies and licenced betting operators.
- » Ensure national legislation includes laws that appropriately criminalize illegal betting and related competition manipulation.
- » Develop regulation that requires licenced betting operators to report instances of suspicious betting to regulators and to publish an official list of shareholders, parent companies and subsidiaries, to make clear the identity of their owners.
- » Encourage operators of Internet payment systems to identify transactions that are suspected of being related to illegal betting and cooperate with Internet service providers to ask them, where appropriate, to identify, block and remove illegal betting websites and to report the situation to relevant law enforcement authorities.
- » Establish specific sports betting integrity units within regulatory bodies.
- » Set up anti-money-laundering units within gambling regulators and ensure that anti-money-laundering controls are in place that follow relevant standards and guidelines.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

MAIN ISSUES

POSSIBLE RESPONSES

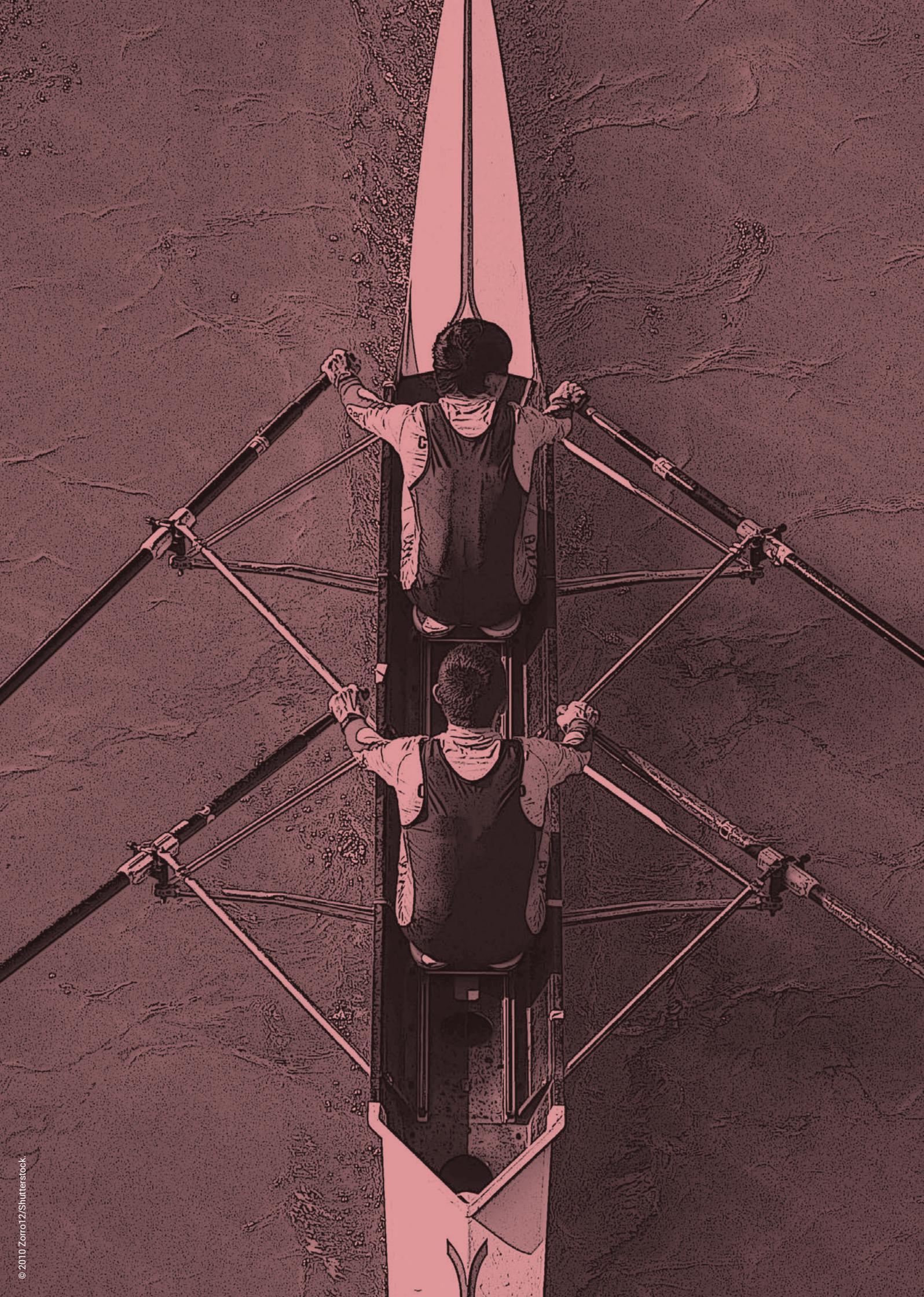
SECTION 10: MAJOR SPORTS EVENTS AND CORRUPTION

The unique corruption risks linked to the bidding process for hosting rights to major sport events and the organization and delivery of these events, both for the bidding cities and countries and for the international sports organizations that select the hosts, have been frequently highlighted by the media and at the Government and sports organization levels.

This focus has led sports organizations that own major sport events to begin making changes to their governance systems and selection processes, while a number of Governments have started to strengthen their sports governance frameworks and sports procurement systems.

Several high-profile scandals in relation to alleged corrupt processes in the awarding of hosting rights for major sport events, and relating to flawed internal governance policies within sports organizations, have shaken public confidence in the ethical standards of these organizations and in the integrity of the major events that they oversee.

- » Develop and implement policies and regulations addressing conflicts of interest at all stages of major sport events.
- » Clearly outline the rules that apply to gift giving and other forms of hospitality that are provided by bidding cities and countries to voters as part of their promotional activity.
- » Establish stronger internal and external controls systems and innovative multiparty collaborative compliance systems that apply to all participants in the major-sport-event delivery ecosystem.
- » Designate within delivery authorities a compliance officer who is independently responsible for integrity-management and anti-corruption- compliance processes and activities in relation to major sport events.
- » Apply an open-contracting approach in procurement relating to major sport events and use special digital tools to analyse procurement data and produce actionable information.
- » Consider engaging civil society organizations in the overseeing of major-sport-event delivery, including through the use of integrity pacts.

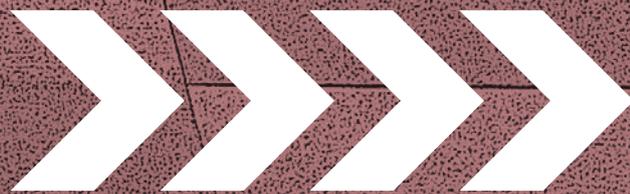




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