

ANTI MATCH-FIXING TOP TRAINING

Booklet on Match-Fixing (national framework)

Match-Fixing: Institutional, Normative, Legal and Preventive Framework in Slovenia

1. Status of Implementation of Macolin Convention on the Manipulation of Sport Competitions.

On April 2015 Government of Republic of Slovenia passed an Official position¹ on *Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on the manipulation of sports competitions with regard to matters not related to substantive criminal law and judicial cooperation in criminal matters*², where stipulated that

“reports on match fixing connected with sports betting were on the rise since 2000. Bigger commercialization of the sport and increasing media coverage led to bigger economic inputs in achieving sport results, where the problematic of match-fixing arises. At the same time the sports betting market, supported by modern ICT, enables legal and mostly illegal actions connected with match-fixing leading to massive financial inputs and revenues. Some research estimate that global match-fixing market comprises of around 30 billion EUR.”

Convention was signed on 2 June 2016, however up until now it is not ratified. Ministry responsible for the implementation of the Convention is Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of Republic of Slovenia. Therefore, it is hard to assess the implementation of the Convention.

2. Most important match-fixing scandals in the last decade (which sport, actors involve, legal framework used)

In 2012 Erdžan Bećiri, football player of several clubs in Slovenian First Football League admitted in court, that he was guilty of collaboration in match fixing³. He was sentenced to 8 months. The same year several football players, including Goran Šukalo, former member of Slovenian national football team, was on trial due to allegations of collaboration in illegal sports betting⁴. He was acquitted in 2014⁵, while others was sentenced to prison.

In 2013 a Slovene national – Admir Suljić, was arrested in Italy, due to alleged involvement with match-fixing and connections with criminal enterprise in Singapur⁶. Furthermore, in 2013 Europol

¹ Accessible at: <http://imss.dz-rs.si/imis/46bbe3d85d52ae60b98d.pdf>

² Accessible at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52015PC0084>

³ Accessible at: <http://www.zurnal24.si/sport/nogomet/beciri-priznal-prirejanje-rezultatov-162486>

⁴ Accessible at: <https://www.rtvlo.si/sport/nogomet/stavniska-afeta-ovadenih-pet-slovencev/256361>

⁵ Accessible at: <http://www.delo.si/novice/kronika/nogometas-goran-sukalo-ni-bil-aktivni-clan-ilegalne-stavnice.html>

⁶ Accessible at: <https://www.dnevnik.si/1042577637/sport/nogomet/v-italiji-aretirali-slovenca-osumljenega-prirejanja-nogometnih-tekem>

representatives that they have been focusing on match-fixing issue and detected 380 rigged matches between 2008 and 2011 while Slovenian law enforcement agencies also took part in investigation. As a result 9 people in Slovenia were charged with match-fixing and illegal betting in 2010 and 2011⁷.

In 2017, two individuals are on trial for alleged match-fixing in Slovenian First Football League. They allegedly offered several football players money to affect the outcome in the match.⁸ In 2017 new allegations of match-fixing in Slovenian First Football League surfaced, where Planet TV released a story that team Rudar Velenje was involved in match-fixing scheme. Rudar Velenje categorically denies their involvement and no information is available whether police investigation followed the release of the story.⁹

Apart from scandals, there were also sporadic reports from different players in different sports. Tennis player Blaž Kavčič in December 2015 stated for newspaper Delo that he was offered money to lose a match a few years ago on a tournament in South Korea, which he refused.¹⁰

3. Legislative framework:

Different laws are regulating match fixing and illegal gambling in Slovenia. 212. article of Criminal Code prohibits organizing pyramid money schemes and cooperation in betting activities, which are not explicitly defined as legal through publication of permits and concessions¹¹. Important part of legislature is defined in Law on gambling, where sports betting is defined as 'classical' gambling activity.¹²

Control over gambling activities in Slovenia is conducted by Department for control over gambling activities, as a part of Ministry of Finance. Its task is to check and analyse data for issuing concession agreements or licenses, controls and analyses implementation of the Law on gambling, issues recommendations for relevant proceedings at relevant authorities etc.

Law on sports defines general principles in sport in 3. Article and states: "3.3. Safeguarding and strengthening of moral and ethical values and avoiding dishonest achievements of results (doping, match-fixing)".¹³

Furthermore, the Slovenian Football Association has adopted the Disciplinary Rulebook regarding disciplinary offenses committed by players and officials. Article 19.1. and 24.1. states that Players or Officials shall be penalized for the following disciplinary offenses: »any conduct that may affect the integrity of a match or a competition under the auspices of the Slovenian Football Association, the

⁷ Accessible at: <https://www.dnevnik.si/1042575054/sport/nogomet/najvecji-stavniski-skandal-europol-preiskuje-380-sumljivih-tekem-v-evropi-tudi-v-ligi-prvakov>

⁸ Accessible at: <http://ekipa.svet24.si/clanek/nogomet/prva-liga/58ef512c72b63/rajcevic-filipovic> and <https://www.rtvsllo.si/sport/nogomet/rajcevic-potrnil-da-so-mu-ponujali-nagrado-za-slabso-igro/419759>

⁹ Accessible at: <http://www.times.si/sport/nogomet/velenjcani-z-ostrim-odzivom-strogo-zavracamo-vsaka-namigovanja-to-je-napad-na-klub-zahtevamo-opravicilo--38e6fbe7c392c80cb6de197867d890a50aa6eeec.html>

¹⁰ Accessible at: <https://www.dnevnik.si/1042728629/sport/ostali-sporti/tenis/v-prirejanje-rezultatov-teniskih-dvobojev-naj-bi-bili-vpleteni-celo-najboljsi-igralci>

¹¹ Accessible at: <https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina?urlurid=20082296>

¹² Accessible at: <http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO409>

¹³ Accessible at: <http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO6853>

Intermunicipal Football Association, UEFA, FIFA, such as, for example, conduct related to match fixing, bribery or co-operation in bribery, participation in sports betting, etc.« The penalties imposed for disciplinary offenses related to match fixing are not specifically mentioned for such offences, but only the possible penalties imposed for disciplinary offenses in general are listed in the Disciplinary Rulebook implemented by the Slovenian Football Association.¹⁴

4. Current prevention campaigns and training sessions:

There were some prevention campaigns implemented in the past but not a lot of information is available to the public. Implementing actors were Athlete Syndicate of Slovenia¹⁵ and Interpol¹⁶. Target groups are professional footballers, while methodology of campaigns is not publicly available.

5. Protected reporting system and whistle-blower protection?

Olympic Committee of Slovenia introduced a whistleblowing reporting system called 'Žvižgavka'¹⁷, that allows reporting of illegal and unethical practices in sports available to all athletes, including football. Preliminary results of data collection from AMATT activities, which was done in clubs in First Slovenian Football League, however imply that football players in general are not aware of existence of such mechanism. This may imply the need for further awareness raising about Žvižgavka among football players and how to use it.¹⁸

6. Actors and Stakeholders' definitions and awareness:

Quote some public statements of relevant actors and stakeholders that express awareness of the problem and/or claim for institutional and/or legal changes for improving the framework to fight against the phenomenon.

In 2009, after Bochum scandal Dane Jošt, representative of Slovenian Football Association at the time stated that there is a need "for severe fight against betting mafia...In case that allegations of suspicious activities in Slovenian First Football League are confirmed we will take appropriate measures. We expect strong support from judicial bodies, since sport organizations have no means to achieve concrete results"¹⁹. Few days after that Drago Kos, former football referee and former President of Commission for Prevention of Corruption of Slovenia stated that "national football associations have primary role in tackling this problem, since the underlying causes – such as irregular wages of footballers – cannot be addressed by the law enforcement authorities"²⁰.

¹⁴ Accessible at: http://www.nzs.si/Doc/Arhiv/Predpisi%20NZS/5%20-%20Disciplinski%20pravilnik%20NZS_V3.5_20062017.pdf

¹⁵ Accessible at: http://www.sportnik.si/aktivnosti_projekti/1/ne_prireraj_dont_gamble_with_it and http://www.dnt-ms.si/public/upload/files/Ne_name%C5%A1%C4%8Daj_Matjaz_Jakopic.pdf

¹⁶ Accessible at: http://www.nzs.si/novica/Interpol_v_Ljubljani_o_preprecevanju_prirejanja_rezultatov?id=32919.

¹⁷ Accessible at: <https://zvizgavka.olympic.si/>

¹⁸ This may be an issue in other sports as well but aforementioned data collection only targeted football players and other employees in First Slovenian Football League.

¹⁹ Accessible at: <https://www.rtv slo.si/sport/nogomet/uefa-bo-od-tozilcev-zahtevala-dostop-do-celotne-dokumentacije/217729>.

²⁰ Accessible at: <https://www.rtv slo.si/sport/nogomet/ce-bi-kaksen-klub-kaznoval-igralca-bi-se-ze-davno-pohvalil/218197>.