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| Forum: | Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) |
| Issue: | Investigating and addressing corruption and crime in international sport tournaments |
| Student Officer: | Phivos Karatzas |
| Position: | Deputy President |

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Phivos Karatzas, I am an IB1 student at CGS school and I will have the utmost honor to serve as a Deputy President in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of this year's PSMUN. As a member of the MUN community, I have been involved in conferences as a delegate since March of 2019, attending a total of 7 in the process, with this being my second time chairing.

This Study Guide refers to the topic of investigating and addressing corruption and crime in international sport tournaments. It is a particularly challenging topic but a very interesting one at the same time. Please be reminded that this document should merely constitute the basis of your research, and you should further delve into the different aspects of the issue and your country's policy.

Having said that, I will be at your disposal for any further information regarding the topic and to answer any of your questions that might arise! You can email me at fivosk2005@gmail.com. I look forward to meeting you all in March!

Kind Regards,

Phivos Karatzas

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Sport has played a major role in humans' everyday lives ever since ancient times, acting as an excuse to halt conflict and unite people under a set of common principles and goals. Even in modern times sport holds a salient role in society as a combination of entertainment, expression and influence, making the topic at hand one of extreme significance. Corruption and crime in international sport tournaments is threatening to destroy the core values of this social institution as many people attempt to manipulate the status quo and generate profit out of sport.

Sport is interconnected with politics and the economy thereby classifying any implications resulting from corruption and crime in sport as crucial in terms of their global impact. On a more superficial level, one may wonder why people would want to effectively ruin sport, an activity that is loved by people all over the world probably due to its core goal of bringing people together and uniting them under their common love and passion for their respective favorite game. Quite paradoxically though, the widespread appeal of sport and their popularity is exactly what attracts sport-related corruption scandals; it is the exploitation of their very own values that lead to their extensive and often illegal commercialization as well as their inclusivity of control by sporting administrative bodies and other organizations, or key stakeholders involved.

Competition is a characteristic of most if not all sport, and in analogous manner with popularity, albeit being a seemingly positive aspect of sport, it is also the driving force behind commercial businesses' and sport governing bodies' manipulation of results and exploitation of legislative gaps so as to make lucrative profits. Understanding the complexity of this issue, one can recognize that there are many variable factors that must be investigated before drawing conclusions regarding solving the issue.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

International sport tournaments

International sport tournaments are acclaimed sport tournaments due to the high-profile athletes that compete in them as well as the presence of athletes representing many different countries. They vary in terms of popularity and recognition as well as prestige and can be divided into categories, e.g., the Olympic Games are the most prestigious international sport tournament in the world. In the context of the guide, the term is used to describe any international sport tournament that has an important presence of international athletes and holds an essential place in the world of sport due to its popularity, recognition, and overall prominence as well as its role in promoting the ideals of sport as an institution.

Transnational organized crime (TOC)

Transnational organized crime groups are associations of people working individually or collectively, executing unlawful acts independently on a trans-national and multi-jurisdictional level. Their main function is to concentrate power and influence, along with the resulting financial rewards. They can vary in their structure and be divided into clans, networks, and units. Their activities are kept in the dark as they function in a way that is very exclusive and secretive, as a means of promoting their operations using violence, corruption, international trade and complicated communication methods.

National Governing Bodies

“National Governing Bodies (NGB) of Sport are non-profit, non-governmental organizations responsible for promoting and developing a particular sport within a nation. They control key assets such as national team brand, support youth and elite level national teams for both genders, develop Olympians, collaborate with International Federation of the particular sport, national Olympic Committee and IOC to qualify athletes and national teams to participate in international events.”¹

Match fixing

Match fixing refers to the practice of one or more individuals engaging in influencing a particular match result through pre-determining the outcome of it before it even starts. It can also take other forms such as spot fixing, which is more difficult to detect, as it focuses on “fixing” small events within a match, such as the injury of a player or a referee call.

Umpire

An individual who is present at a sport competition to ensure that the rules and regulations of the sport are abided by and to intervene and decide whether some actions are allowed or not.

Corruption

Dishonest or illegal behavior exercised by people in authority that aim to take advantage of the power given to them through manipulation. It usually involves some type of personal gain and can seriously affect the well-being of society if not controlled.

¹“National Governing Bodies of Sport - Employment Guide for the Sports Industry.” University of New Haven, <https://www.newhaven.edu/business/sports-industry-employment-guide/national-governing-bodies.php>.

Performance Enhancing Drug (PED)

PEDs are different types of drugs taken by athletes to increase their athletic performance e.g., growth hormones. During the last years, laws and regulations within sport associations have introduced stricter laws regarding the use of PEDs. Nowadays, PEDs have been banned from the vast majority of international sport tournaments due to the health problems their consumption causes, as well as the unequal advantage they give to certain athletes.

Doping

The act of using illegal substances such as performance enhancing drugs or any other type of drug, to enhance sport performance of a human or animal.

Olympic Games

“The Olympic Games are an athletic festival that originated in ancient Greece and were revived in the late 19th century. They are the world’s foremost sport competition and include athletes from all over the world.”²

Paralympic Games

“Paralympic Games, major international sport competition for athletes with disabilities. Comparable to the Olympic Games, the Paralympics are split into Winter Games and Summer Games, which alternately occur every two years.”³

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A brief history of corruption and crime in sport

The phenomenon of corruption in sport is nothing new. The first case of corruption in sport dates to ancient times, with the incident of Euphoros of Thessalia. Then, a boxer in the Olympics bribed three of his opponents to win the competition and the gold medal.

In the 1970s, the German Democratic Republic (GDR), also known as East Germany, exercised a series of experiments on its best athletes, out of which the most known are the practices imposed on the women’s swimming team. The state sponsored doping program, which led to widespread sporting success for East Germany was part of their political agenda, aimed at promoting communism and their superiority compared to their capitalist counterpart of the Federal Republic of Germany (FDR),

²“Olympic Games.” Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/sports/Olympic-Games>.

³“Paralympic Games.” Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/sports/Paralympic-Games>.

commonly referred to as West Germany. Notwithstanding the success of these athletes, there were terrible long-term effects for the well-being of the vast majority of them. Many of these athletes suffer to this day from health implications, caused by the effects of steroid use, which according to official records were well known by scientists and officials of East Germany.

The scandal mainly features the use of Oral-Turinabol, an anabolic steroid given to athletes, with the attributes to make them build muscle faster and recover in shorter periods of time. These comparative advantages given to them through these performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs), were enough to secure them gold medals and a place on the podium in the 1976 and 1980 Olympics. Later, the scandal was discovered, and trials were held, as the victims asked to be compensated and for justice to be served. More specifically, in 2005 an investigation took place regarding 22 national records set by East German athletes during the aforementioned period. Many athletes including Ines Geipel, a track athlete and member of the record-holding East German women's 4x100 meters relay team, admitted to having taken state sponsored drugs to achieve those records. In addition, German authorities announced in 2016 a second fund to compensate doping victims from the 1970s and 1980s, with a payment of €10,500 per athlete, which would be in addition to the first compensation fund, which was established and paid out in 2002.

Causes of corruption and crime

Competition and the nature of sport

Sport at the highest level is without any doubt, an extremely profitable industry. It therefore comes as no surprise that a plethora of individuals ranging from individual culprits such as umpires to entire criminal organizations would want to get involved in the sport industry.

It is undeniable that sport being a particularly one-sided competition, in which the winning team obtains “acclaim” and “glory” while the losing team is, arguably, “humiliated” and “forgotten”, has had a significant influence in turning sport into an almost oppressive institution. This phenomenon can be especially illustrated through crowd behavior, sport rules liberalization as well as in the “sport hierarchy”, where men that manage sport associations are not always purely driven by their interest to build well-being in sport but rather motivated by less sincere aspirations. To add to that, the passion and willingness of teams to do everything it takes to win that accompanies every sport, empowers individuals to look for ways to exploit the violent and insensitive atmosphere created in games, through the commercialization of the industry which has transformed sport in modern times, such that professional sport is a highly profitable and commercially viable industry.

Technological evolution and betting

International criminal organizations and groups have taken advantage of the evolution of sport to find even more ways to gain profit. Technology has led to match betting being much more profitable due to the number of betting companies pursuing a market share and the rising popularity of betting in general. This phenomenon is unsurprising, as the industry has successfully found innovative ways to attract a rapidly increasing number of fans, which in this case constitute customers. During the pandemic, online betting companies generated huge profits, while aggressive advertisement and promotion of betting increased exponentially in social media. Evidently, online betting is far more convenient and easier to access in comparison with more traditional types of gambling like casinos.

Furthermore, sport betting black markets have continued to spread all over the world while, through providing services which are more convenient and present less restrictions e.g., the inclusion of cryptocurrencies as exchange payments. This can be facilitated through a fully functional bet placement system managed by illegal betting website agents, who avoid being detected using mirror websites and Virtual Private Networks (VPNs). Overall, it is evident that illegal betting has been made easier through the evolution of technology as well as from the ability of online betting markets to provide superior services compared to regulated markets, through better pricing, a wider range of online products and markets and the advantage of not being forced to pay the bookmaker immediately after placing the bet i.e., better credit availability.

Politics in sport

Sport has the capacity to bring together and to unite people through their common passion for the game, while confronting and fighting against any racial and other injustices. Especially in times of national sporting success, political parties tend to entice their potential voters through the promotion of their nationalistic views, taking advantage of the emerging feelings of national pride and unity.

Sport could be used as a political tool or as a means of influence. There are many examples of sport being largely political the most prominent of which has perhaps been the Russian doping scandal of 2014, a plan to promote the country's superiority through its newfound sporting success. This was heavily criticized after a series of events leading up to the release of the documentary "ICARUS", a depiction of Russia's state-sponsored doping program that took place in the past decade. The incident came to the forefront after strong allegations against Russian athletes were made regarding the use of steroids. As a response Russia's sport minister, Vitaly Mutko, issued a statement to the news media after The New York Times requested that Russian authorities reply

to the allegations. Mutko described the disclosures as a continuation of the slander against Russian athletes.

Corruption

Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs)

The use of performance-enhancing chemicals and other prohibited substances has been a source of controversy in sport for a long time. There are examples of athletes and coaches attempting to obtain the slightest or even the largest edge possible over their competitors going back to the early 1900s. In the 1900s, doping was mostly restricted to animal-related sport, notably horse racing, but there are documented cases of athletes using performance-enhancing chemicals during the 1904 Olympics in Paris. Notably, American runner and winner of the classic marathon, Tom Hicks was found to have run the race, while using a mixture of egg whites, strychnine sulfate, commonly used as rat poison, a human stimulant in small doses, as well as brandy. Hicks was carried over the finish line, collapsing afterwards. Despite uncovering the event, the gold medal was never stripped from him, and he officially remains to this day the on-record winner of the race.

The main driving force for their use is the financial rewards in many international competitions as well as the pressure the athletes receive to perform better on the big stage. PEDs can be taken by athletes at any level of sport. They are usually observed on occasions where there are high expectations from an athlete. Their use is illegal and considered a crime according to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Illegal betting

Regarding betting-related crimes, the betting industry is divided into two categories: those who are regulated by local and international authorities, and those who operate on the black market, which consists of operators who provide unauthorized betting alternatives via their websites. This illicit betting industry is estimated to be double the size of the legal one, and it is continuing to develop because of its ability to provide clients with better pricing, more readily available financing, and a greater choice of goods than the legal market, as mentioned in the previous section. Even though cases of illegal betting and match fixing are quite obvious, it is often very difficult for authorities to prove their existence and bring legal action against the individuals responsible.

There have been several incidents throughout the globe in which sport officials have been accused of accepting bribes or rigging a game. Following the 2016 Rio Olympics, widespread evidence pointed towards the fact that many of the boxing matches held during the Olympics as well as in the qualifiers were, in

fact, rigged. One of the fights that was investigated was the bantamweight quarter final between Russian athlete Vladimir Nikitin and Irish athlete Michael Conlan. The latter openly claimed that the International Boxing Association (AIBA) was corrupted “from the core right to the top.”⁴

In addition to match-fixing involving betting and spot fixing, there have been instances of athletes or officials placing bets based on “inside knowledge” to generate massive benefits from betting operators and their customers. Overall, to minimize the chance of being discovered, match-fixers tend to target lower-level contests with less media attention and fewer spectators, such as amateur tournaments. These leagues feature players who earn smaller pay and are thus more approachable, making them potentially more vulnerable to bribery. That is why serious corruption cases are often observed in sport of relatively little popularity like low level tennis or cricket tournaments.

Match fixing

It is an extremely effective way for TOC groups to generate large sums of profit and a very profitable activity for the people that exercise the fixing of matches, while ensuring that the risk factor is minimized. It can be divided into two main categories, betting-related match fixing and match fixing as well as spot fixing. Match fixing includes criminals often having agents working for them who contact players, coaches, referees, and club executives to facilitate the fixing of a game. These individuals (also known as runners) could also be former players or agents for former players. In other words, match fixing is a form of crime found in sport, where offenders will try to influence and predetermine the result or aspects of a game/games. This usually occurs through blackmailing or bribing players, umpires, or other direct actors such as players, or indirect actors such as the team management.

Spot fixing

Regarding spot fixing, which is very similar to match fixing, there is incentive for the criminal organizations to manipulate the result and playing of the game, through making specific bets regarding player performance and events happening in the game. In general, spot fixing involves unlawful sport-related activity in which one or more aspects of a game, unrelated to the ultimate

⁴ McLaughlin, Kelly. “A 2016 Olympian Irish Boxer Famously Accused Judges of Fixing His Match. Now an Independent Investigation Says Nearly a Dozen Fights May Have Been Rigged.” *Insider*, Insider, 1 Oct. 2021, <https://www.insider.com/investigation-2016-olympics-boxing-matches-rigged-2021-10>.

outcome but upon which a betting market exists, are fixed to guarantee a certain outcome in a proposition bet.

Match fixing is especially difficult to track, monitor and respond to. Bets may not only be placed on the outcome, but also on different aspects of the game, such as points, fouls, decisions made by the referees and others. In such cases, the authorities face multiple challenges since there are usually no obvious signs of illegal bets being placed. Such patterns can only be detected by computer algorithms, meaning that such illegal acts are increasingly sophisticated and cannot be identified without the right expertise and resources.

Several cases of spot fixing have become known within the world of sport in the last years. The cricket scandal involving three players of the Pakistani national team, was an example of such crime, as the players were paid to make certain decisions on the playing field. During a test match between England and Pakistan that was held in London in 2010, Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif, and Mohammad Amir were involved in the intentional orchestration of a total of 3 no-balls (illegal delivery to the batter). According to investigations, prior to the incident, team captain Salman Butt had received bribes from a journalist who claimed to be a bookmaker. After the scandal made the headlines, all three of them faced charges and Mohammad Asif even faced jail time.

Crime

Transnational organized crime (TOC) groups

Transnational organized crime (TOC) groups have long been involved in international sport tournaments. In recent years though, their sphere of influence and scale has become much larger due to the transformation of sport. Many of the reported incidents involving organized criminal organizations, have a significant transnational aspect to them, as shown by the activity of these groups in several countries; they make use of networks that cover many countries and operate in a variety of aspects of the illicit economy.

It should also be emphasized that organized crime organizations also utilize their vast unlawful revenues to enter the licit economy as part of their overall strategy. As a result, it is crucial to emphasize that the line between these categorizations may sometimes be blurred, with certain criminal acts, such as competitive manipulation, incorporating both kinds of methods.

Human rights violations

In the case of international sport tournaments, the construction industry greatly benefits along with the economy of the country. The construction of sport-related infrastructure benefits the overall development and well-being

of the country, while providing its people with job opportunities. Unfortunately though, besides sport associations, construction companies as well as other investors involved, many people working in construction sites for major international sport tournaments are exploited, under-paid and manipulated.

In preparation for events like the Olympic Games or the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup, the necessary premises need to be built and modifications must be made in the infrastructure cities. On the one hand, such projects are extremely high stakes but on the other hand, can be proven to be substantially profitable in the process. Moreover, it must be noted that the most important factor contributing to the success of a construction project is in fact the workforce. This is where human rights violations come into play; the intention of the group of organizers behind every big international competition is to promote its image to the rest of the world, ensure that the tournament is deemed successful and of course to maximize profits. Therefore, some aspects are purposefully neglected such as the well-being and the lives of the workers. In this context, allegations have been made in recent times regarding the exploitation of the workers occupied with the construction of the facilities for the 2022 FIFA World Cup to be held in Qatar.

More specifically, working on the reconstruction of the Khalifa Stadium and landscaping the neighboring gardens and athletic facilities, known as the "Aspire Zone," migrant workers from Bangladesh, India, and Nepal are being exploited; forced labor is being used against a vast majority. The workers are unable to change occupations, they are unable to leave the country, and they sometimes must wait months before receiving payment. Meanwhile, FIFA, its sponsors, and the construction businesses involved are all expected to reap substantial financial rewards from the tournament's events.

Migrants from Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) are left with no other choice because of poverty and unemployment in their home country, but to pay nontransparent recruitment agents from their country, high fees ranging from US\$500 to US\$4,300 to be given a job in Qatar. They are required to live under terrible conditions inside a camp, while their ID card and passport is confiscated from the moment they enter the country. In addition, to stay in Qatar a residence permit is required by law, but employers might refuse to renew the permits of workers or not even give them the permit in the first place despite their legal obligations. At the same time, they are often paid less money than the salary that they were promised by the recruitment agent, or they get their salary several months later than scheduled. Furthermore, to

leave the country they must get an exit permit approved by their employer, which means that employers are keener to deny their request.

Paralympics and related crimes

The Paralympics as an international sport tournament

Paralympics are an international sport organization, parallel to the Olympic Games but for people with disabilities. Since the late twentieth century, the Paralympic Games have been hosted in the same city as the Olympic Games. The Paralympics take place immediately after the conclusion of the Olympic Games in that city.

They are governed by the International Paralympic Committee, which was established in 1989 and has its headquarters in Germany. Six major disability groups are represented at the Paralympics: amputees, cerebral palsy sufferers, visually impaired athletes, spinal cord injured athletes, intellectually disabled athletes, and "les autres" (athletes whose disability does not fit into one of the other categories, including dwarfism). Athletes are further subdivided into classes based on the kind and level of their disability within each of the groups. Individual competitors may be reclassified at a later stage of a competition if their physical condition has changed significantly.

A criminal case in the Paralympic Games

The Paralympics have been subjected to crime and corruption cases, which mainly focus on the faking of disabilities of participants to gain a clear competitive advantage against their disabled competitors. An example of such a case is the infamous case of the Spanish paralympic team in the 2000 Paralympics. Following a convincing victory against Russia in the tournament's final, Spain's intellectually impaired basketball team became the talk of Iberia after claiming the gold medal. The team's members began to be questioned about some of their teammates shortly after the Games came to an end.

Several individuals challenged the team's credibility as a paralympic squad after seeing photographs of the team's triumphant performance. They claimed to have known some of the members of the team and had no idea that they were suffering from any type of intellectual disability. A team member who came out as a journalist named Carlos Ribagorda, finally exposed everything by revealing himself to be a member of the press. Ribagorda stated that he had never been asked to take an IQ test or any other sort of test, except from being asked to perform six press-ups and having his blood pressure tested. As a result of the later revelation, it was concluded that only two members of the 12-member squad were mentally handicapped, thus the team was disqualified.

Challenges faced when combating corruption and crime in sport

The nature of international sport federations

When it comes to the character of sport, there is a clear correlation between the existence of corruption and crime with the closed, confidential state of international sport federations. It is suggested that the system that international sport tournaments are based on facilitates the development of corruption and growth. The mutual relations between individuals engaged in the management of sport associations and federations is evident of the common goals and aspirations of such organizations in general.

The interaction that takes place between international sport federations and sport associations involves a type of secrecy. If a particular body has been corrupted, it is very difficult to discover, analyze, and define these events seen from the outside. People outside of this close circle are just unable to get the necessary information.

In addition, whistleblowers like the former head of Russia's national anti-doping laboratory, Grigory Rodchenkov are very few and rarely confess the corruption and crimes taking place within national governing bodies in sport or international sport federations. In his case, after sharing disclosed information regarding Russia's state sponsored doping program, he admitted that he had received many threats for his life, while it is a fact that shortly after the news came out about the 2014 doping scandal, two former senior members of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency, (RUSADA) were killed under unknown circumstances.⁵ Uncovering sport scandals through informants, seems unlikely as a phenomenon, not only because of the risk that such decisions entail to the life of the individual but also due to an lack of commitment to setting ethical standards observed on individuals that work under these regimes.

Regarding the role of the IOC, there is a clear connection between it and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), as well as the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Both bodies were established by the IOC and were supposed to be independent but in fact there are a lot of conflicting interests between the organizations and people who had double roles as senior members of more than one organization. There are clear indications that this reinforces the present issue, raising suspicions regarding the will power of these organizations to stop incidents of doping.

⁵ "The 'Real' Threat to Russia's Former Doping Mastermind." BBC News, BBC, 30 July 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-53596997>.

Furthermore, it must be noted that despite the fact the IOC is named as a non-profit organization, it has been known to make profits of around \$6 billion annually, which makes it a very profitable organization. This proves that despite the continuous incidents of doping and corruption in the Olympic Games, the organizations that actively fund the operations of the IOC, typically sponsors and broadcasters, have taken minimal action to set the standard for integrity and truthfulness in international sport tournaments through solely pursuing their own personal gain and ignoring the external cost to society.

The inability to act on doping

In general, sport is not corrupted per se, but it is supported by a system which creates incentive for individuals to corrupt sport and draw benefits through their illegal activities. But even when the intention to act against corruption and crime exists, the resources and capacity to do so are missing. In the case of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), there is a significant danger that the organization may be exposed to manipulation by important stakeholders such as the International Olympic Committee and governments, as it is purely funded by them. The fact that the organization itself does not generate any profit, makes it open to external pressure, which might come in the form of indirect pressure from its financial backers. To put it another way, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is entirely dependent on funding from governments and international sport groups to operate. WADA has been unsuccessful in encouraging governments and international organizations to increase their contributions and therefore not only does it lack the supervision and the capacity to contribute viably to the problem, but it also lacks in the financial resources it can gain access to.

On a general note, WADA has been successful in fighting doping exclusively based on the good will of its financiers but more importantly it has hasn't been able to find long term solutions to promote fair competition through diminishing the use of Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs) in sport. It is evident that the organization does not have the ability to enforce the laws it passes and heavily depends on governments to perform drug testing, which leads to a never-ending cycle of inefficiency and waste of time and resources to tackle the issue.

A distorted reality

Large sums of money draw the attention of fraudsters, corrupt officials, and members of organized crime as organized criminal organizations are usually drawn to large sums of money. The existing problem related to the corruption driven by Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) groups is one of high complexity due to the amount of money that can potentially be generated by these groups as well as by corrupt individuals in general. And while all that is

happening, national governing bodies (NGB) in sport and international sport federations are allowing corruption to be present in sport but to the degree where the news don't make the headlines, as a means of not damaging the image of international sport tournaments.

Individuals often struggle to believe that their favorite sport, or an international sport tournament, is plagued by corruption and crime. In fact, crime in sport is viewed as neutral and less essential compared to other forms of crime. Sport is often seen as "pure," and is associated with good societal ideals in general. As a result, it is less widely viewed as a problem requiring legislative regulation or as one requiring more stringent financial supervision. Because of their association with noble ideals, it is tempting to imagine that instances of corruption in sport are the result of isolated actions committed by immoral individuals. It is believed to a discrepancy of the system that stems from the individual rather than from the system or its environment.

Effects of crime and corruption in international sport tournaments

Effects of doping to athletes

When it comes to doping and the use of Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs), there are serious consequences to the career and reputation of an athlete in the event of getting caught cheating. Possible effects of doping use being uncovered, may include exclusion from their sport, forfeiture of prizes won as well as loss of sponsors. An example of this kind would be the social outrage and turmoil that came after the revelation that Lance Armstrong had been using PEDs to increase his performance. Following Armstrong's admission to doping, all his sponsors ended their connections with him. Armstrong claimed to have lost \$75 million in a single day because of his loss of the partnership with Nike. In addition, the Livestrong Foundation requested that he step down from its board of directors.

Fortunately for him, the opinions about him varied, but in recent years, people have showed sympathy to his admission of guilt, and few have even forgiven him for his past, albeit his impactful mistakes. Regarding the risks to the health of an individual, doping presents huge health concerns to individuals who use PEDs to enhance their performance. Substances like erythropoietin (EPO), which was used by Armstrong to win his seven Tour de France titles, boost athletic performance, but terrible compromises are made by athletes who take them in terms of their health in the future. At first, EPO increases red blood cell mass, which allows for greater oxygen delivery to muscles. As a result, it improves athletic performance and can be very beneficial to endurance athletes which compete in long distance or extremely energy demanding sport like Olympic cycling. The side effects of EPO may be substantial. It can cause

thicker blood owing to an increase in red blood cell mass, and it may raise the risk of cardiovascular disease, strokes, and brain or lung embolism, among other things.

Damage to society

Sport athletes are often seen as role models, and as a result, they hold some obligation to the society. The use of PEDs or other incidents such as bribery, discredit an athlete's reputation and puts into question the validity of their successes, but it also tarnishes the clean slate that sport are supposed to have. Following the damage of an athlete's reputation, the loss of trust among fans may result in the fan's skepticism of institutions, which may in turn diminish the efficacy and trustworthiness of such organizations. Furthermore, the administration of doping tests imposes significant financial burdens on society on an annual basis. According to official information published from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), a total of 270,000 drug tests amounted to 229 to 500 million dollars in 2013.⁶

Overall, crime and corruption have significant consequences. Individuals are more likely to engage in unethical conduct if they see others acting unethically in their immediate environment. In other words, when the patterns of corruption and crime in sport such as doping and illegal betting start to become a characteristic of international sport tournament, there are indications that these phenomena are well established in society and incorporated in the subconsciousness of individuals, harming the integrity of sport, and distorting its principles.

In instances, like the Qatar 2022 World Cup, there is excruciating data that crime in sport is common despite the many movements that the twenty first century has rebirthed such as the human rights movements, or movements regarding equality or justice and others. When it comes to Qatar's selection, objections were raised to the selection of Qatar as the host of the World Cup due to the human rights violations it has been accused of in the past. When the news surfaced those workers had been exploited and manipulated, the world of sport was hit once again with yet another major scandal. Unfortunately, this incident like many others, including the Russian Doping Scandal in the 2014 Winter Olympics or the socially conflicting hosting of the 2016 Olympics in Rio, have caused great damage to the image of international sport tournaments. And while there is still hope for a restart, in view of the

⁶ 18, March. "The Economics of Corruption in Sports: The Special Case of Doping." Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, 18 Mar. 2015, ethics.harvard.edu/blog/economics-corruption-sports-special-case-doping.

Sustainable Development Goal 16 that was created by the United Nations (UN), it is of outmost importance that action is taken regarding rebuilding the lost trust between fans and sport associations.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Japan

Japan holds a special position in this debate due to the historical background of many of its main sport and its current state. Sumo wrestling is one of the most popular and well-known sport in the country, often declared as their “national sport”. It has a tradition of over 900 years and thus it remains at the core of the identity and history of the Japanese. Its hidden treasure includes social and cultural rites, which are embedded in the sport. The tradition continues to this day and a national sumo wrestling championship is organized every year, in which the most prestigious and high-profile wrestlers take part.

In recent years, there has been a lot of controversy circulating the specific event, as suspicions have been raised regarding the purity and legitimacy of the sport. In this context, Sumo's rigorous regulations and hierarchical structure have produced a culture in which harassment and bullying may take shape. As a result of this attitude, sumo has been similarly prone to corruption throughout the years. Despite first denying the claims, the Japan Sumo Association (JSA) eventually conceded in 2011 that the sport had been subject to rampant match-fixing, with 13 top wrestlers being involved. This followed a protracted police investigation. It has also been discovered that there are ties to the criminal underworld. For participating in a gambling ring organized by the yakuza, the Japanese mafia, the JSA punished 18 fighters and barred one stablemaster from competing in baseball events in 2010.

Pakistan

Pakistan has seen its sport industry steadily decline for years now. Specifically, cricket, one of its most renowned sport, has experienced in the past a combination of international success and growth as well as evident cases of corruption. Its greatest success and highest point were reached in 1992, when the Pakistani team won the World Championship. But after that came the downfall of cricket as a sport in the country. Most notably in 2010, players of the Pakistan national team were found to be involved in a spot-fixing crime.

Overall, the credibility and wellbeing of the sport has been questioned as Pakistan has been hit often in the past with the offences of people aiming to infiltrate into the sport core. Since then, Pakistani cricket officials have fought tirelessly to combat the plague of corruption. However, the underworld on the subcontinent has wrapped its

tentacles around cricket because of the sport's popularity in the betting market, making it a never-ending battle.

Russian Federation

Shortly after the completion of the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia was accused of carrying out a state-sponsored doping scandal. Evidently, the Russian anti-doping laboratory with the support of the state, had planned a well-organized and detailed scheme to enhance its athletes and experience its biggest sporting success in years. As an effect of the scandal, huge controversy was created, and conversations were sparked regarding the transparency of the Olympic Games in terms of fair competition and the willingness of sport governing bodies to protect sport from doping.

German television station ARD was the first to report on accusations of fraud and systemic doping throughout the country. In the reports, allegations were made from former Russian Anti-Doping Agency officer Vitaly Stepanov as well as from his wife, Yulia, an 800m runner who was previously suspended from competing because of doping. Following the event, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) closed the national drug testing laboratory on grounds of noncompliance of Russia's anti-doping agency. In May of 2016, the "New York Times" published an article in the form of a testimony by Grigory Rochenkov, former director of the anti-doping laboratory in Moscow. Several details surfaced regarding the operations of the anti-doping lab and its role in helping athletes get away with doping. As a response, WADA launched an operation to track down and reevaluate old samples, which came out positive and forced the organization to impose bans to many athletes from Russia and other countries.

The 2014 Winter Olympics doping scandal was a hard hit to the integrity and the morality of the Olympic Games, as it made clear that doping and manipulation of results in general was inevitably, a problematic phenomenon in the Olympic Games. In the competitions that followed, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) imposed bans on several athletes who had been previously found having taken Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs). Most specifically the Russian track and field team was not allowed to compete in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. In later competitions, such as the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, the Russian athletes competed under the name of "Olympic Athletes from Russia". In the most recent Olympic Games in Tokyo, although Russia has officially been banned from competing, Russian athletes participated as members of the newly established "Russian Olympic Committee" (ROC). The certain decision to simply change the name of organization the Russian athletes represent, has caused the IOC to receive widespread criticism and disapproval, as many have expressed the belief that it won't discourage Russia or its athletes in any way when it comes to condemning corruption in the Olympic Games.

United States of America (USA)

The USA is undoubtedly one of the biggest powerhouses in the history of the Olympic Games and other international sport tournaments. It has been one of the most dominant countries in terms of sporting successes across international sport tournaments since the start of the twentieth century. US athletes have on several occasions outperformed their competition in different Olympic events, securing many medals for teams USA in the process. To this day, the USA remains the country with the most Olympic medals in the history of the Olympic Games. On the other hand, the country has experienced a few ups and downs throughout its presence in international sport tournaments.

One of these events is the incident involving the doping of American cyclist and sport figure, Lance Armstrong. Lance Armstrong's doping scandal is without question one of the most controversial stories in sport. Once a hero who inspired the world, through his fight with cancer and his incredible achievements in cycling, who later was found to have used performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) and for many turned into someone considered to be a fraud in the world of sport.

Some years after another scandal occurred on US ground involving the bribery claims against leaders of a globally recognized sporting institution, the group that brought the 2002 Winter Olympics to Utah, known as the Salt Lake City Olympics Committee (SLOC). In this case, officials of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) were accused of taking gifts from the committee during the bidding process that took place to determine which city would host the Winter Olympic Games of 2002. Investigations by the United States government and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) quickly revealed that the Salt Lake City Olympic Committee (SLOC) had given cash gifts, scholarship programs, medical care, and expensive vacations to IOC members both before and after the city's bid for the games was approved. In the end, four IOC officials, as well as the two main executives of the SLOC, were forced to resign due to the scandal.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The UNODC holds an especially important position in this debate. As a UN body established in 1997 to tackle the interconnected issues of illegal trade, corruption and crime as well as prevent them, it has recognized the severity of the topic, through acknowledging many aspects of corruption and crime in international sport tournaments.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime works in more than 80 countries throughout the globe. It works closely with governments and civil society to promote security and justice for everyone. To achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) implements the majority of its anti-corruption activities through its Global Program to Prevent and Combat

Corruption through Effective Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Support of the Sustainable Development Goal 16.

In addition to developing tools to assist in the detection and reporting of corruption and crime in sport, the UNODC oversees raising awareness of corruption and crime risks in sport, both virtually and in-person. Moreover, it ensures that legislation, regulations, and policies are in place to assist with the combating of corruption and crime in sport. It is also responsible for developing appropriate cooperation frameworks between law enforcement, criminal justice authorities, and sport organizations.

Its most recent contribution is in the form of a Global Report on Corruption in Sport published in December of 2021. The Global Report investigates a wide variety of concerns, including the role of illicit betting, competitive manipulation, abuse in sport, and the vulnerability of big athletic events to corruption, as well as the participation of organized crime, amongst other things. This paper also discusses the changing environment of sport and its relationship to corrupt practices, as well as the current measures to combat the problem, challenges linked to identifying and reporting wrongdoing, and how existing legal frameworks may be implemented to combat corruption in this sector. It acts as a guideline for efficiently addressing the problem of crime and corruption in sport, as well as policy considerations to aid in the resolution of these challenges, and it is available online.

[Fédération Internationale de Football Association \(FIFA\)](#)

FIFA is the international Federation of Association Football. It is the World football's governing body, which has been associated with corruption in football in the past. In the year 2015, a case had been filed against them, claiming their involvement in high profile corruption cases that included wire fraud, racketeering and money laundering.

Consequently, both the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) and FIFA presidents were removed from their positions and banned from the association for 8 years. The investigation was carried out by the FBI and IRS-CI, while the findings showed eminent information that concluded that the illegal activity was driven towards corrupting the process of issuing media and marketing rights to other companies regarding FIFA games hosted in South and North America for an estimated amount of 150 billion dollars.

More recently, there have been strong allegations concerning the organization and hosting of the World Cup in Qatar. These include the violation of human rights, as a part of hiring workers from Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs), or low-income countries such as Nepal and Sri Lanka. From 2010, over 6500 workers of different nationalities (mostly Asian) have died while working in construction sites and building projects for the Qatar World Cup 2021. Most deaths are reported as “natural

deaths”- no additional details given, rising suspicions regarding the terrible working conditions in the country. Other causes of death included road accidents and suicides.

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is a non-profit, non-governmental international organization. Founded in 1894, it is responsible for the control and development of the modern Olympic Games.

The organization is stable and independent as it elects its own members. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) elects its president for a term of eight years, after which the president is eligible for reelection for two more terms of four years each. The executive board, which consists of 15 members, meets with representatives from international federations and national Olympic committees on a regular basis. The honor of hosting the Olympic Games has been bestowed to a city rather than a nation and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is entirely responsible for selecting the host city.

In the past though, the IOC has faced heavy criticism regarding its actions and intentions to solely serve the Olympic spirit and the Olympic values. In 1988, allegations were made that the IOC had received bribes to give the rights of hosting the Olympic Games to Salt Lake City, Utah in 2002. The IOC committee suspended six of its members, while others resigned. In the next year, a reform package was introduced that included the IOC Ethics Commission.

Because the Olympics are held on a worldwide scale, it should come as no surprise that they have been marred by the nationalism, manipulation, and misinformation that have characterized global politics in recent years. Furthermore, they are heavily plagued by commercialism, as television rights and sponsors are nowadays a huge part of the Games. The IOC itself heavily depends on television revenues to sustain itself. Having said that, the stance of the IOC could be one of the key elements to resolving the present issue in terms of the Olympic Games as well as in general, as a common framework in cases involving similar sport associations.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

WADA is an international independent organization that was established in 1999 by the IOC, for the purpose of monitoring and reinforcing the fight against the use of drugs in sport. It is a well trusted and well-respected organization due to its willingness to promote the legitimacy and ethicality of professional sport.

Despite that, WADA is largely dependent on other organizations for funding its operations, including the IOC, meaning that it cannot be regarded as completely independent and sovereign from any other influence. From the time of its establishment, it has been accepted by more than 600 sport organizations, as a legit, distinct governing body in the fight against doping in sport.

On a different note, WADA is often portrayed as not efficient and competent to lead the fight against doping. The main reasons for this vary. Firstly, its lack of an international network, due to its limited number of contractors and scientists to supervise and keep up with the constantly growing challenges of their mission, present a worldwide problem as there is the willpower to fight the battle against doping but not the capacity to do so.

Moreover, there is a high risk that the organization can be subjected to the manipulation of key stakeholders such as the IOC. Since the own organization does not make any profit (non-profit organization), it can be vulnerable to external pressure made indirectly from its finance providers. In other words, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is reliant on financing from governments and international sport organizations. WADA has generally been effective in getting more than 95 percent of anticipated money (a little less than \$30 million USD in 2017) but has been less successful in convincing states and international organizations to raise their donations.

In a similar vein, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) did nothing to assist WADA in defraying the expenses of its investigation into doping at the Sochi winter Olympics by transferring to WADA the \$15 million fine it levied on Russia after its ban from the Rio Olympic Games. Several actors involved in WADA's economic environment seem to be keen to weaken the Agency by steadily eroding its financial resources. Having said that, there is a clear void, between the potential of the organization and how capable it is of offering solutions to the present issue and its present status, meaning how it can react at the moment to the threat of doping.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

| EVENT | DESCRIPTION OF EVENT |
|---------------|---|
| 388 B.C. | Eupolos of Thessalia bribes three of his opponents to win gold in the Olympics |
| 1976 | East Germany uses a state-sponsored doping program to give its athletes a competitive edge in the 1976 Winter Olympics in Montreal, Canada. |
| November 2000 | Spanish team scandal uncovered in 2000 Paralympics, as athletes faked disabilities. |
| 31 July 2002 | Russian organized crime boss, Alimzhan Tokhtakhounov arrested by Italian authorities in Venice on U.S. charges that he masterminded the 2002 Olympics figure skating scandal. |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| September 2013 | “The Guardian” publishes a report regarding exploitation of Nepalese workers by construction companies which are responsible for building 2022 Qatar World Cup infrastructure. |
| December 2014 | Russian doping scandal allegations raised in documentary by German public broadcaster ARD |
| 17 March 2014 | “Operation Car Wash” by the Federal Police of Brazil uncovers money laundering and corruption cases within the state-controlled oil company “Petrobras”, which led to giving out contracts to construction firms who bribed the firm. |
| 9 November 2007 | Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption Milestone in combating crime in sport, having had the support of 183 member states of UNCAC. |

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Rodchenkov Act

The Rodchenkov act is a law that was passed from the US senate and signed by US President Donald Trump in December of 2020. Its name comes from the former director of Russia’s Anti-Doping lab, who turned into a whistleblower after the 2014 Sochi Olympic Games. He was part of the Russian team of scientists, who helped Russian athletes get away with doping as part of their state-sponsored doping program, after changing their urine samples with new stored ones.

The Act enables the United States to commence legal procedures against people engaged in operating doping rings, including coaches, officials, managers, or suppliers, even if they are not US citizens or the act of doping occurred outside the US. Its main objectives and goals are to bring to justice the facilitators and contributors of these drugs, after the athletes have been banned from international competition from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Concerning its application, it does not specifically target athletes, but states that other athletes who did not cheat are considered “aggrieved”, while also mentioning that broadcasters and sponsors should receive compensation. If one or more athletes from the United States compete in a major international competition where three or more competitors from other nations are present, the Act will apply to that competition. Events where the competition organizer or sanctioned actor has accepted sponsorship or support from an organization conducting business in the United States, and where a broadcaster has purchased rights to rebroadcast in the United States, are likewise covered by the Act.

Criminal penalties include up to 10 years in jail and a maximum fine of \$250,000 for persons who are convicted of the offense. Syndicates, labs, and organizations found to be engaged in doping-related operations might face fines of up to \$1 million. And although this act is highly effective and drastic in the battle against crime and corruption in sport and more specifically doping scandals, as it covers a multitude of aspects of such crimes and prepares the grounds for legally binding policies with real application and effect in the world of sport, it does present some disadvantages.

According to WADA, this act covers some aspects that have already been covered such as sanctions and life bans and therefore may “overlap laws in different jurisdictions”. Lastly, it expressed its concern regarding the exclusion of US college athletes and professional athletes from the final draft.

[The Transparency international Global Corruption Report: Sport](#)

The report presented by the Transparency International Organization in February of 2016 is an extremely useful tool and guide for covering all aspects of corruption and crime in sport. It analyses the nature of sport as a profitable business, the role of different stakeholders including governments, sponsors, athletes, sport organizations, multilateral institutions, and others. It goes into detail explaining past examples of corruption in major international sport tournaments, including the most prominent one, the Olympics. On a general note, it can be said that it is successful in the sense of setting the framework for real action to follow, however not so successful in terms of combating the issue.

[Ensuring that integrity is at the core of sport’s response to the pandemic: preventing corruption in sport and manipulation of competitions](#)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in cooperation with the IOC and INTERPOL created in January of 2020, “a policy framework and playbook of recommendations” that reflects the present status of sport, while taking into consideration the new aspects introduced by the COVID pandemic and how their integrity and fundamental principles can be maintained. Its basic recommendations include ways to battle the different forms of corruption and the loopholes created because of the pandemic and which can be taken advantage of from criminal groups.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

[Promoting the need for transparency and awareness](#)

There must be more openness and transparency towards national authorities around the vast amount of money that the sport sector generates. That will be achieved only if already existing legislation is expanded and adjusted to cover the patterns and characteristics of illegal activity separately for its member state. At the same time,

national sporting authorities should supervise transactions involving the purchase and sale of assets between stakeholders in the sport sector, as well as the establishment of regulated betting markets and the establishment of accountability in sponsorship relationships. Awareness of the fact that the business provides social and symbolic capital to organized criminal groups and mafia organizations, as well as economic chances to corrupt entrepreneurs, is also required. As a result, organizations such as FIFA must acquire expert knowledge and incorporate anti-corruption measures into its operations while retaining control and disciplinary authority over the sector.

Addressing the lack of supervision

The lack of specialized law enforcement units as well as officials of independent non-profit organizations to ensure that law is abided by, is detrimental for the integrity of sport. Although there are existing governing bodies to support that, there aren't trained personnel to be put in charge for solving and combating crime and corruption in sport on a national level. Even in the case of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), there is indeed an extreme case of lack of the needed manpower to combat doping and the use of drugs in sport. As mentioned earlier there are specific factors that might be of influence on this outcome.

International cooperation

Promoting cooperation, coordination, and exchange of information among relevant government entities, in particular law enforcement and criminal justice authorities, as well as between sport's governing bodies and sport betting entities, is critical in addressing the manipulation of competition and assisting in the detection, investigation, prosecution, and disruption of such activities. It is proposed that all relevant parties, in particular law enforcement, criminal justice authorities, and sport organizations, develop formal institutional frameworks and processes, as well as official protocols and procedures for dealing with breaches in international law through their common interest in monitoring and detecting crime and corruption in sport, as a means of keeping unlawful practices out of sport.

Promoting ethical standards through legal action

Stakeholders or actors involved in corruption and crime cases in sport such as online betting should always be held accountable for their actions. Strict laws should be enacted to protect consumers who are particularly vulnerable to online gambling or betting advertisements due to their lack of knowledge and awareness, such as young audiences. Besides, illegal betting could be reduced provided that legal betting itself is regulated adequately and complies with specific ethical requirements. In this context, it would be beneficial to introduce legislation which will limit the exposure of children and young adults to these advertisements. If a complete ban is not an achievable and realistic goal, then states should at least aim to minimize the effect of extensive promotion of the specific product. To combat illegal betting, states could

intervene within their economy and review already existing tax regimes, payout rates and operational efficiencies, to decrease the competitive edge of black markets and maximize legal profits.

Holding private associations accountable

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) gains most of its revenue through broadcasters and sponsors. Even though these funds are an essential part of the IOC's budget, they may give leeway to the continuation of corruption and crime in the Olympic Games. Despite the clear evidence that exists on doping scandals in recent years, the budget of the IOC has remained the same and the organizations that fund it haven't shifted their perspective in the process. It would therefore be extremely effective, to encourage change through pressuring broadcasters and sponsors such as sport brands to demand change from the IOC. In addition, member states must find ways to hold these private firms accountable for their irresponsible stance and continuous support and cooperation with the IOC, despite their lack of incentive to tackle corruption and crime in the Olympic Games. As a reference point, ahead of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, the Chinese government has been accused of conducting genocide and crimes against humanity, specifically against the Uyghur people, according to international human rights organizations. Even though numerous nations are boycotting the Olympics because of these claims, the big sponsors have apparently decided to continue supporting the competition. In other words, despite China's human rights issues leading up to the Beijing Olympics, major sponsors are turning a blind eye to the whole scheme and neglecting the ethical issues raised in the occurrence of the violation of human rights.

It is necessary that steps are taken forward and the current situation of sponsors in the Olympics is carefully and neutrally assessed, in view of confronting the companies and individuals that are indirectly facilitating or ignoring the side effects of their actions. In other words, member states are strongly advised in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to implement legal measures to protect the integrity and transparency of international sport tournaments through the power that is given to them as hosts or participants of such events and demand action to take place and that all stakeholders from the private sector are to always be held accountable.

Technical training and responses to the increasing threat

It has been suggested that the protection and cancellation of data deals with online betting companies that focus on smaller scale and lower-level international tournaments may bring along benefits and reduce the probabilities of match fixing in the sport. In addition, investigating and directly addressing scandals, requires following a long procedure with many steps. Nowadays, the technology used by match fixers is rapidly evolving and complex, as they are constantly finding more ways to

serve their illegal ventures. Thus, seizing illegal operations demands a high level of communication between governing stakeholders as well as the best possible resources technologically wise.

When it comes to Artificial Intelligence (AI), AI software can be further improved by betting companies to detect and monitor frauds in online betting. There is room for improvement and development of such tools which will assist governing bodies and international federations to gain access into a series of solutions including data analytics and forensic accounting. As for now, national authorities and international sport federations are mainly trying to keep up with the rise in crime, as a lack of effective crime controls is often seen. Finally, additional efforts should be made by member states in the investment of necessary technologies, in view of promoting better accountability and maintaining the optimal level of sustainability in the industry.

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