



EDUCATING COACHES ON SPORT INTEGRITY

Project Partners

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)

National University of Physical Education and Sports Bucharest (Romania)

International Council for Coaching Excellence (UK)

Sheffield Hallam University (UK)

Hungarian Coaching Association (Hungary)

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Code Fair Play (Greece)

Slide 1: Match fixing

Match fixing

Definitions, examples and consequences

Social and personal determinants

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INTEGRITY

Briefly discuss the concept of match fixing in relation to corruption.

1. Why it is considered a threat to sports?
2. Why it is against the ethics of sport?
3. Why efforts should be taken to tackle match fixing?

Estimated time: 3 min

Slide 2: What match fixing is?

What match fixing is?

- **Match-fixing** is defined as the act of influencing the course or result of a sporting event for personal, sporting or financial gain.
- **Match fixing** violates the rules of the game and often the law.

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INTEGRITY

Present the definition of match fixing to students.

Ask students to discuss their understanding of this definition. Guide discussion to the fact that match fixing involves a) the outcome of the event and b) the course of the event. Discuss with students the expected gains from match fixing. Explain what personal, sporting and financial gains are. Ask students to provide examples of such gains. Discuss how match fixing violates the rules of the game and law. Guide discussion to sport ethics.

Estimated time: 5 min

Slide 3: Types of match fixing

Types of match fixing

- **Tanking** - The deliberate underperformance by a competitor or improper withdrawal before the end of a match
- **Have you witnessed tanking?**



A short BBC article on tennis match-fixing that mentions Nick Kyrgios's recent 'tanking' offence:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/tennis/43880329>

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INTEGRITY

Present the definition of tanking. Provide examples to help students understand what tanking is. Discuss with students how common tanking is. Ask students to report any experiences with tanking. Probe all students to report experiences with tanking. Discuss the provided examples

Estimated time: 3 min

Slide 4: Types of match fixing

Types of match fixing

- **Spot-fixing** – manipulation of a particular event within a contest so that gamblers can bet on it.
- **Spot fixing** involves parts of the game and may not have much influence on the result of the game
- **Have you witnessed spot-fixing?**



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Present the definition of spot-fixing. Provide examples to help students understand what spot-fixing is. Discuss with students how common spot-fixing is. Discuss main differences between tanking and spot-fixing: (a) relatively easier to arrange as compared to fixing the outcome of a game, (b) less people are needed to arrange (one or two athletes), (c) may not influence the outcome of the game. Ask students to report any experiences with spot-fixing. Probe all students to report experiences with spot-fixing. Discuss the provided examples

Estimated time: 3 min

Slide 5: Who may be involved in match fixing?

Who may be involved in match fixing?



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Describe the role and involvement of each of the people that may be involved in match fixing. Discuss how people at different levels of sport involvement can be involved in match fixing.

Estimated time: 3 min

Slide 6: Consequences of match fixing

Consequences of match fixing



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INTEGRITY

Explain to students that the consequences from fixing a game may be personal, social, and legal.

Estimated time: 3 min

Slide 7: Types of approach: Contact

Types of approach: Contact

- **Direct contact**
 - Social media, phone, mail, face to face



- **Indirect contact**
 - Through a third party



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Present the two forms of approach; direct and indirect contact. Discuss how the direct contact can be made. Ask students to discuss who can have direct access to players. Probe for club's officials, coaches, teammates etc. Discuss how the indirect contact can be made. Ask students to discuss how someone can get access to players. Probe for club's officials, coaches, teammates etc.

Estimated time: 3 min

Slide 8: Types of approach: Offer

Types of approach: Offer

- **Direct**
 - Cash
 - Gifts and goodies
- **Indirect**
 - Promise for a new contract
 - Job offer following career or to family members
 - Sporting transactions (e.g., points in the championship)



Ian Gaynair is a professional Belizean footballer. He plays for Belmopan Bandits. In 2013 Gaynair and his fellow team mate, Woodrow West, were commended for reporting an attempt to bribe them to lose a game deliberately.

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INTEGRITY

Present to students the offers that are typically used to fix a game. Ask students present examples from their own experiences. Discuss why different rewards are offered in different athletes. Link the offers to the athletes' needs.

Estimated time: 3 min

Slide 9: Types of approach: Acceptance

Types of approach: Acceptance



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Explain students that when agreed to fix a game, the next thing is to do it. Common ways of fixing a game include a) decreased performance, b) faking injury, c) refuse participation in a game, d) shift from team strategy, e) purposeful mistakes, f) winding up teammates. Discuss with students what each type means and how it influences team performance. Ask students to provide more examples of how an athlete can influence team performance.

Estimated time: 5 min

Slide 10: Personal determinants: Financial/competitive status

Personal determinants: Financial/competitive status



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Discuss with students how athletes' different status may influence their decision to fix a game. Issues to discuss may include: Who is more likely to fix a game? What types of offers are expected to receive based on their status? Under which conditions are they expected to fix a game? Research shows that a) elite athletes are less likely to fix a game as compared to sub-elite, b) professional athletes fix games mostly for direct offers, whereas amateur athletes for both direct and indirect offers, c) well-paid athletes are less likely to fix a game as compared to poorly paid athletes.

Estimated time: 3 min

Slide 11: Personal determinants: Betting addiction

Personal determinants: Betting addiction

- Betting/gambling addiction is strongly related to match fixing.
- Addicted players are more likely to fix a game:
 - Satisfy the addiction (earn money)
 - Compensate for betting losses
 - Excitement from deviant behaviors



Joey Barton, former football player and manager who was banned for breaking gambling rules relating to matches, has claimed that match-fixing is rife in the game of football. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/42783527>

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INTEGRITY

Provide evidence on the relation between betting/gambling addiction and match fixing. Explain why this relation exist. Discuss the three main reasons for which addicted players are likely to fix a game.

Estimated time: 3min

Slide 12: Personal determinants: Moral stance

Personal determinants: Moral stance

- Match fixing is against the Spirit of Sport
- Athletes with a high moral stance are less likely to fix a game
- Athletes with high levels of moral disengagement are more likely to fix a game



Moral disengagement among top horse trainers, bookmakers, jockeys and horse racing clubs in one of the UK's biggest sporting gambling industries. Many people involved in the sport are aware that races are fixed, and know of the corruption, but choose to 'turn a blind eye'.

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INTEGRITY

Discuss match fixing as a moral issue. Describe the 11 values of the Spirit of Sport and explain why match fixing violates the Spirit of Sport. Discuss relevant literature on how morality influences behavior in sports. Discuss with students how a person with high morality would react in an offer to fix a game.

Introduce students to the concept of moral disengagement. Explain the mechanism of how moral people do immoral things. Probe for the relevant justification process. Discuss with students how a person with high moral disengagement would react in an offer to fix a game.

Estimated time: 5 min

Slide 13: Social determinants: Social pressure

Social determinants: Social pressure



Discuss with students the main sources of pressure to an athlete to fix a game. Probe for people in the club, and family members. Discuss how these people can exert pressure to the athletes. Furthermore, discuss how a criminal network may put pressure on an athlete. Ask for students to present other agents that may put pressure to fix a game.

Discuss with students how these agents can exert their pressure on an athlete. Probe for threats and rewards. Discuss that, in several instances, these agents take advantage of the athlete's actual (i.e., money difficulties) or perceived needs (i.e., more luxurious lifestyle).

Estimated time: 5 min

Slide 14: Social determinants: Perceived norms

Social determinants: Perceived norms

- Is there a culture in favor of match fixing?
- Perception of match fixing as an approved behavior
 - Accepted by sport related people
 - Accepted by significant others
 - High prevalence of match fixing



Football's dark side: Undercover footage exposes a match fixing offer from Ghana.

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Discuss with students the existence of a culture in modern sports that many games are fixed. Discuss how this culture influences athletes' perceptions of match fixing. Is it perceived as a wrong or an acceptable behavior?

Discuss with students what people think of match fixing. Probe for whether it is considered acceptable in the athletes' sport and personal environment, and how frequent behavior it is.

Discuss the consequences of perceiving match fixing as an acceptable behavior. Probe for spot-fixing that doesn't influence the outcome of the game. Discuss with students whether this is an acceptable behavior and how it influences athletes' mentality towards match fixing.

Estimated time: 3 min

Slide 15: Summary

Summary

- Match fixing in sport
 - Definition
 - Types
 - People involved
 - Consequences
 - Determinants



Briefly summarize the most important topics discussed in this session; Definition, types, people involved in, consequences, and determinants of match fixing. Present a take-home message that match fixing is a corrupted activity and has severe consequences.

Estimated time: 3 min

Slide 16: Disclaimer notice

Disclaimer notice

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