

Forum:	Advisory Panel on the Question of Drugs and Crime
Issue:	Safeguarding of Sports from Corruption on the Global Level
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Introduction

Sport in the competitive, formal sense was initiated by the first Olympic Games, in 776 BCE, Greece, which still runs every four years in our current society. Sport can be defined as any form of physical activity regardless of its casual or organised nature, where the objective is to display fitness. It has, and always will play an integral role in all communities and states across the globe. Since the Olympics, other major sporting events have been constructed in order for countries to come together in a friendly sense, creating healthy competition, job opportunities and even improving diplomatic relations.

Despite the numerous positives, corruption within sport has taken harsh tolls on many individuals, companies and even countries. On one hand, the integrity and transparency of sport must be upheld; on the other, false accusations, particularly spread by bitter teams and their fans via social media, have the potential to ruin careers. This report will outline the forms of corruption that are likely to occur even in the most insignificant of matches, the consequences they incur, and how they can and must be prevented.

Definition of Key Terms

Corruption

Illegal, immoral or ethically questionable methods conducted by individuals, companies or parties that hold authority to some extent. Within sport, common forms of corruption include but are not limited to bribing, match fixing, cheating and money laundering.

Doping

There are many forms of illegal practices regarding doping, which is one of the most common cases of sports corruption that leads to very serious consequences for athletes and their coaches. The presence of prohibited substances in urine and/or blood samples, evading anti-doping tests and assisting others in doping are all considered offences.

Match-Fixing

Match-Fixing, common in sports such as football and tennis, is the intentional arrangement or act aimed at improper alteration of the result, the course of a sports competition to change the outcome, giving one team/side an unfair advantage.

Bribery

The act of taking or receiving something with the intention of influencing the recipient in some way favourable to the providing party. This is illegal and not only limited to sports, usually punished through fines and even jail time. However, in many cases, bribing is very difficult to detect and prosecute.

Background Information

The Impact of Sport Corruption

Corruption is found in every sport, and has a profound impact on the athlete, coach or manager's entire career, as well as those associated with them. The below details the mentality behind carrying out illegal activities.

The Reasons Behind Doping

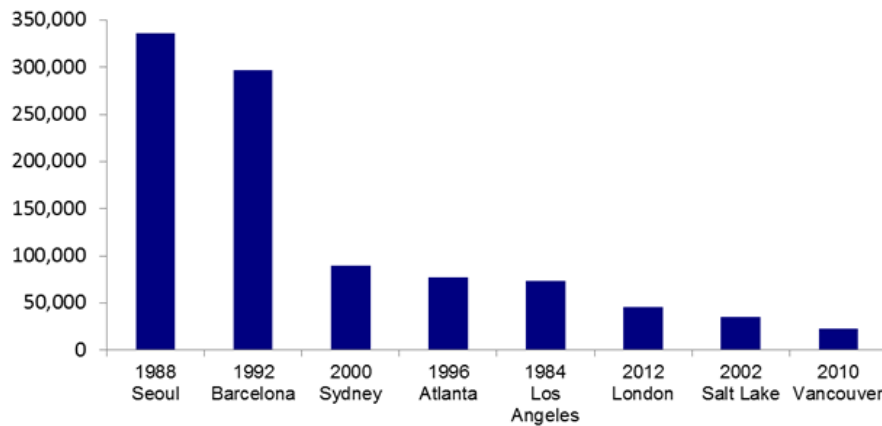
There are many diverse reasons that athletes have said to justify doping use. Surprisingly, most athletes dope not as a shortcut to success, but to push themselves further, exceed the limitations of their body. This could mean training harder, longer, more frequently in order to maximise results during competitions. Other reasons include recovering from an injury as quickly as possible, or pressure from externals, such as coaches. There can be a clear chain effect, particularly in athletics, where athletes are stuck with the mentality of 'Everyone else is doing it, so why can't I?' Of course, individuals dope to beat records in order to increase sponsors, in turn gaining recognition, fame and wealth.

Ethical or not, athletes who violate the World Anti-Doping Code, which has a strict and clear list of rules and specific drugs not to be taken, (see 'WADA' below) are given an unfair advantage, no matter the incentive, and is inexcusable.

The Economic Impact of Hosting Major Sporting Tournaments

Any city hosting a large-scale event, sports related or not, will see large benefits, and losses that may not present itself until years later. For example, the Olympic Games is obligated to invest billions of dollars. For some economically stable countries prior to the tournament, the event can be a huge success, generating mass profits, influx in the tourism sector, country

recognition and job opportunities. The Rio 2016 Games saw a total of 5 billion viewers across 200 countries, gaining 6.2 billion dollars from new visitors alone (Skift, 2016).



The amount of jobs created from Olympic Games (Photo:IOC)

However, there are incredible downsides to hosting the Games. Countries will put all finances into games to show off their city and prove their worth. Less developed countries have been known to obtain money in illegal or unethical ways, such as suspending funding from vital sectors of their economy (see 'Brazil' section below). For example, the Sochi 2014 Games ran more than \$40 billion over budget. More was spent in this one tournament than all past winter games collectively (Fortune, 2016).

Sporting events also take a massive environmental toll on any city. Infrastructure costs enormous amounts of time, human labour, and even lives to build, and at the end of all of it, most buildings are disregarded or demolished. Even maintaining centres cost money, the Bird Nest used in Beijing costing 11 million dollars a year just to keep its condition (Guardian, 2015).

Although this topic can be seen as indirectly related to the issue, it is the activities that reside within the very fundamentals of hosting sporting events that lead to corruption and unethical practices, and therefore being aware of the extraordinary ethical, economic and environmental cost it takes just to host such a prestigious event is imperative to the understanding of the topic. The outcome; scandals at every turn, disregard of human life, unethical ways of presenting a country unlike how it is. Experts must consider: is all this trouble to host a sporting competition worth it? How might these problems be overcome so the Olympic Games, one of the most looked forward events in society, function honourably and successfully?

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

The IOC is a not-for-profit, independent and international organisation, formed and led by volunteers. It gained authority from the Olympic Charter, and facilitates the games, choosing cities through a bidding process. It is said to promote rightful ethics and youth participation, fair play, and is anti-doping and discrimination.

However, particularly in recent years, the IOC has faced numerous scandals and allegations on its true agenda. The corporation has been put under multiple investigations, human rights violations and exploiting candidate cities for future games (e.g. requesting 24-hour butler service from Norway (FloTrack, 2016)). Furthermore, its involvement in the Rio Olympics in 2016 has left Brazil in economic ruin, and Sochi 2014, where thousands of workers were put in dire, illegal situations. Lastly, due to being a non-profit organisation, they are exempt from taxes, despite gaining 4 billion USD in revenue from the 2016 Olympics. It's difficult to distinguish whether the IOC is a genuine, honest committee, due to multiple perspectives, but the humanitarian disregard in past Olympic cities is unacceptable.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

The WADA, a private institution, was established by the IOC, specifically to address doping in sport, no other forms of corruption. It is internationally recognised through its creation of the Code of Practice and the Prohibited List (the world anti-doping code which was originally managed by the IOC). This List details specific drugs and methods not to be taken or used. WADA is supported by intergovernmental agencies, governments and public authorities that are centred on fighting doping.

The WADA has a great deal of authority in the sporting world, for example having the ability to remove sports from the Olympics, as threatened in 2016 when FIFA rejected stricter drug laws. It has not undergone any major scandals or allegations and continues to be the leading global anti-doping agency.

Russia

Russia is no stranger to scandals, stemming from its political unrest with the West that has been in force for decades. Sport is no exception. During the Sochi 2014 Olympics, tens of thousands of migrant workers were illegally brought into the country to construct the beautiful facilities and stadiums. After the Olympics, a 3 year long investigation into suspicions of athletes doping was conducted, where the Russian government refused WADA access to their anti-doping laboratory samples.

The outcome was tremendous; ten Russian medals were revoked, the Minister of Sport was banned from all future Olympics, Russia was banned from the PyeongChang Winter Olympics in 2018, unless athletes participated under a neutral flag, earning the title of 'Olympic Athletes from Russia'. It was concluded that a state backed doping scheme, supported by the Federal Security Service of Russia (FSB) was undertaken in the Sochi Olympics.

Moreover, the FIFA world cup was hosted in Moscow during July of 2018, which already caused controversy, due to the scandals brought forward by the 2014 Olympics. The Russian Interior Ministry gave an order to the Police for no negative news to be posted to media sites during the World Cup, instead promoting only positive news (Reuters, 2015). During the games, FIFA fined many parties, such as the Mexican Football Federation for chanting homophobic slurs at players. Similar to the Sochi Olympics, migrant workers were exploited to build infrastructure, with FIFA turning a blind eye, and with a reported 21 workers dead from the harsh conditions working on the site. Fear stemmed from this, and although FIFA did establish a monitoring system, inspections were always announced beforehand, and workers were afraid to speak out.

France

The Tour De France first begin in July of 1903 and is one of the major annual sporting events worldwide. However, since its construction, the tournament has endured multiple scandals, possibly the most infamous being the confession of Lance Armstrong, an undefeated American title winner for six years, who admitted to using illegal substances to boost his performance. He was stripped of all titles.

However, France itself has taken multiple steps to reduce its internal sport corruption. In early 2018, the French Sports Minister Laura Flessel signed the 'Declaration of Intention', in alliance with the United Kingdom. They agreed to share intelligence to overcome and tackle corruption, particularly in match fixing and better sectors, with three task forces constructed to aid this agenda. Future tournaments to be held in France include the 2023 Rugby World Cup and the 2024 Paris Olympics

Brazil

The 2016 Olympic Games were hosted in Rio de Janeiro. Prior to the tournament's initiation, Brazil was facing a decade of economic high, alleviating 30 million out of poverty. But, in the wake of the Games, the seemingly strong government facade started to break down.

The beginning already saw corruption, with allegations that bribes were sold to the Olympic Executive Committee in order to buy votes for Rio to host the Games. During construction, tens of thousands were displaced from their homes, with little warning and compensation, to make space for the billion-dollar stadiums and facilities. Furthermore, funding was cut from healthcare and education and put into making the Games spectacular. The ending saw the Rio Olympic Chief being arrested due to corrupt actions, and Carlos Nuzman, the Brazilian Olympic Committee Head detained due to bribery and money laundering. Ever since, the country has been in economic turmoil, some describing as the 'worst downturn since the Great Depression'. (Reuters, 2016)

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
23 June 1894	The International Olympic Committee is founded in Paris, France.
10 November 1999	The World Anti-Doping Agency is formed by the International Olympic Committee.
December 2, 2010	Although its potentially dangerous high temperatures, the 2022 FIFA tournament is awarded to Qatar. Meanwhile, 6 FIFA executives are suspended due to allegedly selling their votes for cash.
December 2015	FIFA Officials accused of bribery, amounting to 150 million USD, and money laundering, 7 arrests and many receiving life bans and resulting in a major scandal.
January 2016	Widespread match fixing is discovered during the Australian Open, involving the top 50 contestants, and had been ongoing for a decade. Similarly, Gulam Bodi is banned for 20 years due to match-fixing in cricket.

Relevant UN Resolutions and Treaties

- Resolution on the Corruption of Sport, 9 November 2017 **(A/RES/71/8)**
- Follow-up to the Marrakech Declaration on the Prevention of Corruption, 6 November 2015 **(A/RES/69/6)**
- United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), 14 December 2005

Possible Solutions

The issue of sport corruption is extensive, particularly because of the numerous forms of corruption that each are prevalent in their respective sports. However, globally, regardless of the sport, **transparency is key** in order to increase the accountability of international sporting corporations, and their ability to hold matches in an unbiased way. All countries participate in some form of sport; therefore, the integrity of competitions must be upheld in order for them to continue. This may be accomplished

through clearer and additional policies regarding the consequences and guidelines of doping and other forms of corruption. Thorough **background checks** on executive officials of sporting institutions, referees and coaches would help improve the legitimacy of internal decisions that affect the sporting world security, and ensure matches are judged fairly. Coaches should have to go through a similar process so as to minimise athlete abuse and manipulation. As detailed in the report, humanity is often disregarded in order to build the illusion of perfection through sporting competitions; therefore, before the initiation of a project, such as an Olympic Games in a country, a voting method not confined to IOC officials to confirm the location of the infrastructure, in places with low housing could be beneficial, and investigations and inspections should be conducted, as well as through **humanitarian investigations throughout the construction process**. Experts should also look into creating a similar integrity agency such as the WADA; one that provides a more widespread defence against corruption in sports, not just a specialised one (anti-doping being the WADA's prioritised objective). This would ensure a platform where governments and agencies could actively work together to minimise corruption.

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