

# FIFA's fight against match manipulation

Match manipulation undermines the integrity and credibility of football at various levels throughout the game. It provides organised crime networks with the opportunity to infiltrate football and attempt to corrupt players, referees and officials in order to manipulate matches and gain massive profits from the betting market.

One of FIFA's key objectives is to promote integrity, ethics and fair play and to prevent match manipulation, which jeopardises not only the integrity of matches, but also competitions, players, officials and member associations (MAs). Protecting competitions from the threat of match manipulation is paramount to FIFA, and to ensure that the integrity of tournaments is not compromised in any way, FIFA has taken the following steps:

## 1. Creation of a dedicated confidential reporting mechanism tool

FIFA has created a dedicated [online platform](#) for the confidential reporting of potential wrongdoing that allows anyone with a suspicion of match manipulation, among other potential infringements, to report it. Reports can be submitted anonymously and the user also has the option to attach supporting documentation as well as to create an anonymous post box.

## 2. Monitoring of all matches at FIFA competitions

FIFA monitors all matches in its competitions through its agreement with [Sportradar](#), a global leader in match manipulation detection and prevention. Sportradar uses its Fraud Detection System to identify and analyse any suspicious betting behaviours or patterns across a number of international and domestic competitions around the world.

## 3. Relationships with players, coaches and referees at FIFA competitions

Throughout its competitions, FIFA works closely with players, coaches, referees and other officials in a preventative capacity. This means that FIFA has established strong relationships and can speak directly to those at risk about the threat of match manipulation and provide them with informative material on the issue, such as how to report a match-fixing approach.

## 4. Workshops on ethics and integrity risks in football with referees and MAs

Ahead of specific FIFA competitions, referees and MAs are invited to take part in [separate workshops](#) on integrity matters so that FIFA can provide them with practical information and updates.

## 5. Implementation of FIFA's Enhanced Protection of the Integrity of Competitions initiative

FIFA's Enhanced Protection of the Integrity of Competitions (EPIC) initiative is implemented at the FIFA World Cup™ and FIFA Women's World Cup™. It focuses on the following key areas:

- A. **Team engagement:** Each MA participating in the FIFA World Cup or the FIFA Women's World Cup is invited to include its Integrity Officer in all integrity-specific training sessions.
- B. **Local Integrity Officer presents to national team:** Before the start of the final competition of the FIFA World Cup or the FIFA Women's World Cup, the FIFA-trained Integrity Officer from each participating MA gives a tailored presentation to their national team.
- C. **Specific workshops:** Before the start of the final competition of the FIFA World Cup or the FIFA Women's World Cup, briefings for Local Organising Committee (LOC) Officers assigned to the respective participating MAs, including the Team Liaison Officers, are conducted by FIFA on relevant integrity and match manipulation matters. FIFA also carries out a presentation tailored to the FIFA General Coordinators (GC) in charge of their respective venues.

## 6. Empowering and supporting confederations and MAs

FIFA understands that enabling and supporting confederations to create integrity initiatives is vital in tackling match manipulation, and therefore FIFA actively works with each confederation to support them in tailoring their integrity approach to their own specific needs. This allows confederations to consolidate the authority and capacity at regional level in order to strengthen their responses to match manipulation and potential match corruption scenarios.

The FIFA Forward Programme was created as part of FIFA's support and capacity building initiatives for MAs. The application process for FIFA Forward includes best practice recommendations for MAs to safeguard the integrity of football including:

- A. **Local integrity workshops:** MAs can request and organise integrity workshops, and in order to comply with a minimal standard, at least one of these workshops every two years needs to be organised in collaboration with FIFA and/or Sportradar.
- B. **Drafting of a national code of ethics:** Encouraging the implementation of a code of ethics for each MA and confederation, if not already implemented, and supporting MAs in putting the appropriate legal frameworks and bodies in place to allow judicial bodies to prosecute and adjudicate cases related to match manipulation, as well as corruption, conflicts of interest, etc. at national level.
- C. **Appointment and training of Integrity Officers:** As per [FIFA's Specific Recommendations to Combat Match Manipulation](#) and as established in [FIFA circular no. 1554](#), each national association has to appoint an Integrity Officer to establish a point of contact for communications and to participate in regional integrity workshops.

## 7. Enforcing sanctions

FIFA maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards match manipulation and works closely with MAs and confederations to impose or extend sanctions when it occurs. Examples of some of the decisions reflecting this approach taken by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee are:

- [Match official banned for life due to match manipulation](#)
- [FIFA extends match manipulation sanction against Estonian player](#)
- [FIFA extends sanctions relating to match manipulation and betting activity](#)
- [FIFA extends match-manipulation sanction against Croatian player](#)