



# MANIPULATION OF SPORTS COMPETITIONS

Trainer name and date

FINNISH SPORTS ARE  
A FORERUNNER IN  
ETHICAL CONDUCT



Topical ethical themes  
**EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO ETHICALLY SUSTAINABLE SPORTS**  
Promoting spectator safety and comfort  
**EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO A SAFE SPORTS EVENT**  
Prevention of competition manipulation  
**EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO FAIR PLAY**  
Anti-doping activities  
**EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO CLEAN SPORTS**

Together  
with our partners,  
we promote  
ethical conduct  
in sports

RELIABLY · FAIRLY · TOGETHER

# What is manipulation of sports competitions?



# Manipulation of sports competitions

*“Manipulation of sport competitions means an intentional arrangement, act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a sport competition in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the aforementioned sport competition with a view to obtaining an undue advantage for oneself or for others.”*

(Council of Europe 2014)



# Concepts

- **Manipulation of sports competitions**
- **Competition manipulation**
- Match manipulation
- Result manipulation
- Match-fixing
- Throwing a game

# Frequency of manipulation of sports competitions

- Difficult to estimate accurately as most of the cases are never investigated
- Any cases detected do not necessarily tell the whole truth about the extent of the phenomenon
- Manipulation of sports competitions is difficult to detect or prove reliably

*“Previously in my volleyball career, I witnessed a lot of unfair play to get a certain result. I don’t even want to know how common result manipulation is. It makes me feel bad. It’s not just about the results but everyone being able to perform to the best of their abilities and the best team winning. Fans should be able to support their team without hesitation and no one should have to use their time and energy on thinking who or how much money there was involved behind a certain result.*

*When I played volleyball in Azerbaijan, the game was not as fair as possible. Some referees were bribed and there were successful and unsuccessful attempts to buy a certain result. It made me frustrated and I lost my real passion for sports. I wondered why should I play to win if it is not possible in the end.”* Riikka Lehtonen, beach volley player



Photo: Tuuli Metsäkoivu

# Best-known cases in Finland

- Several fixed Finnish baseball matches at the end of the 1990s
- Manipulation cases in football, the most famous of which are the Veikkausliiga and Ykkönen manipulations in 2008–2011

# "Toinen kavereista on tunnustanut"

## Viesti sopuapena tuli ilmi poliisin tutkinnassa

# Sopupeleista tuomiot 34 ihmiselle

URHEILU Turun Sanomat 13.12.2005 3:05 0

## Oy tutkii kolmea ottelua

Pa otti takkiin taloudellisestikin



Länsi-Savo/Arkko 2018

# Krp: Suomen futislahjonta alkoi jo 2008 - yli 30 ottelua



Jalkapallon sopupelien järjestelijälle ehdotonta vankeutta

Yhdeksän Rovaniemen Palloseuran entistä jalkapalloilijaa saa syytteen lahjuksen ottamisesta elinkeinotoiminnassa.

IS – STT/20 May 2011

IS – STT/20  
May 2011

MTV/19 July 2011

(KUVA: ANTTI AIMO-KOIVISTO)

Julkaistu: 20.5.2011 12:34, Päivitetty: 20.5.2011 16:11

# Negative effects of manipulation of sports competitions

- Direct effect on the basic values of sports, such as unpredictability and unexpectedness
- Concrete consequences:
  - Internal sanctions from sports federations
  - Criminal sanctions
  - Loss of reputation
  - Financial consequences, such as terminated sponsorship deals and loss of advertisement and ticket revenue

**Does manipulation of sports competitions occur in your sport?**



A woman in a red and blue soccer jersey stands with her back to the camera on a soccer field. In the background, other players in blue jerseys are visible on the field, and a large crowd of spectators fills the stadium stands.

# Forms of manipulation of sports competitions

# Manipulation of sports competitions or not?

Team orders

Tactics

Premeditated result or event

Sports with judges giving scores

Injury classifications



# UNFAIR INFLUENCE OVER RESULTS

Threat to the credibility of sports

## MOTIVES

Gambling, competitive success, money laundering

Money is a common factor

## HOW AND WHO

Intentional mistakes, premeditated decisions by referees, pressure to manipulate

- An individual player or athlete
- Background person, such as coach
- Referee
- Anyone who can influence the result of the competition or event.

Manipulation of sports competitions can be divided into **sports-based manipulation** and **betting-related manipulation**

# Sports-based manipulation

Aimed at gaining a competitive advantage, for example:

- Winning a crucial match
- Avoiding relegation or gaining promotion
- Improving future prospects



Ilta-Sanomat 18 December 2011

## Foppa paljastaa: Ruotsi hävisi tahallaan olympialaisissa

Peter Forsberg myöntää Ruotsin hävinneen tahallaan matkalla olympiakultaan Torinon olympialaisissa vuonna 2006.



Peter Forsberg voitti olympiakultaa Torinossa. KUVA: VESA KOIVUNEN

Vesa Laakso  
18.12.2011 14:28

## Sports-based manipulation

Julkaistu 28.2.2018 16:01 Muokattu 28.2.2018 16:14

### Sopupeli ravistelee salibandyn divaria – Päävalmentajat sopivat lopputuloksesta kesken ottelun, liitto rankaisi kilpailukiellolla

Matias Lövberg



Kaksi divarivalmentajaa tuomittiin kilpailukieltoon. Arkistokuva.

*(Etelä-Saimaa/Nyman 28 February 2018)*

[Case available in Yle Areena](#)

# Salibandyn erikoinen sopupelisaaga sai jatkoa – tuntevia rangaistuksia lievennettiin, dramaattinen vaikutus sarjatilanteeseen

Päätöksellä on merkittävä vaikutus myös Divarin sarjatilanteeseen. O2-Jyväskylä nousee pois karsijan paikalta, joten EräViikingit Akatemia joutuu nyt karsintoihin.

salibandy 20.3.2018 klo 11.22 | päivitetty 20.3.2018 klo 16.19

*(Yle/Saarinen 2018)*

# Betting-related manipulation

The goal is to gain a financial advantage by influencing matches or competitions.

Financial advantage can be direct or indirect:

- **Direct advantage** refers to a sum of money won through betting
- **Indirect advantage** refers to criminal advantage gained through money laundering



Different modes of betting-related manipulation include, for example:

- Point shaving
- Spot-fixing
- Player infiltration
- Ghost games

*According to estimates, betting-related manipulation is about one and a half times more common than sports-based manipulation.*

## Betting-related manipulation of sports competitions

HOME » SPORT » FOOTBALL » INTERNATIONAL

### Fifa haunted by new gambling phenomenon: 'ghost games'

Investigators are examining what could be a new front in gambling-related corruption, the phenomenon of "ghost games" in which gamblers are duped into betting on games that do not actually take place.



International  
Sport » Football »  
also »  
all News »

NEWS / SPORT

# Exclusive: Top international cricketers involved in spot-fixing

England, Australia and Pakistan cricketers in widespread spot-fixing, Al Jazeera investigation

by David Harrison



21 Oct 2018



Follow

**FBI: San Diego point-shaving scandal netted 'more than \$120,000'**

By Rob Dauster | May 22, 2013, 11:52 AM EDT

most  
ilious things  
n ever said



# Use of insider information

*Information relating to any competition that a person possesses by virtue of his or her position in relation to a sport or competition, excluding any information already published or common knowledge, easily accessible to interested members of the public or disclosed in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the relevant Competition.*

(IOC & Interpol 2016)

Insider information can be, for example:

- Lineups not yet published
- Health of athletes
- Tactics and formations

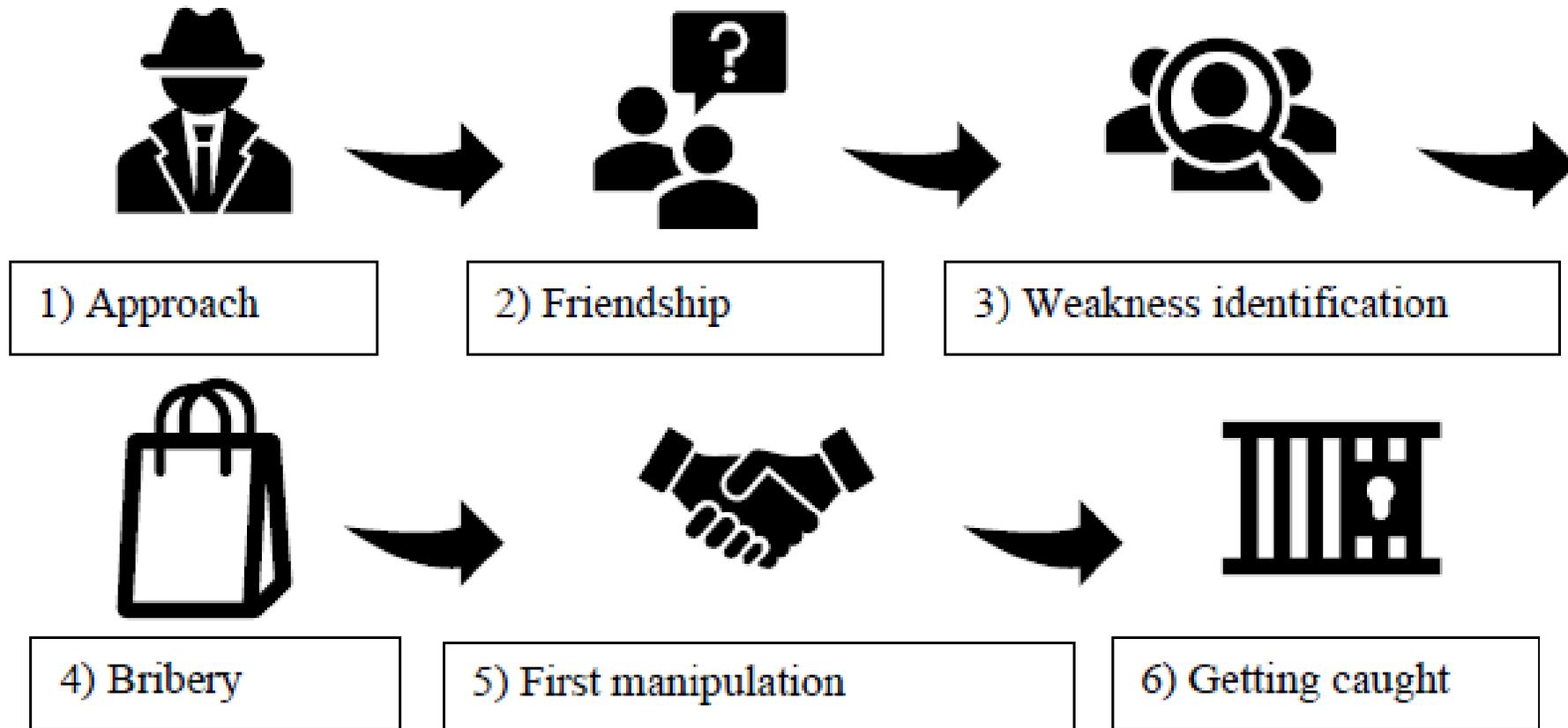


# Manipulators

Roughly speaking, the methods in which manipulators approach people involved in sports can be divided into two categories:

- In countries with high levels of corruption, a strategy aiming for “**quick profits**” is preferred
- In countries with low levels of corruption, **long-term** relationships with the preferred targets are formed

# How manipulators approach their targets



**What are the risk factors for  
manipulation of sports competitions?**

# Risk factors

## Susceptibility factors

- Individual sports vs. team sports
- Strong authority – culture of manipulation
- Insignificant competitions
- Inadequacy of competition rules
- Lower tiers
- Financial factors (e.g. clubs' economic difficulties, overdue salaries)
- Vulnerability of an individual (e.g. gambling problem)
- Feeling of being excluded or not committed to a community
- Poor awareness of the phenomenon

*Greed and fear are the most common underlying motivators.  
The key factor of manipulation of sports competitions is often money.*

# Motivators

## Positive

- Bribes, such as:
  - monetary compensation
  - valuable sponsor deals
  - gifts and services
  - promise of a transfer to a more successful team

## Negative

- Pressure and threats
- Rhetorical and psychological manipulation

A woman with her hair in a ponytail, wearing a red long-sleeved sports jersey with dark blue accents on the shoulders, stands on a green soccer field. She is looking towards a goal in the distance where other players in blue uniforms are visible. The background shows a large crowd of spectators in a stadium.

# Prevention of manipulation of sports competitions

**If you knew your opponent accepted bribes, what would you do?**

And what if your teammates accepted bribes?

# Prevention of manipulation of sports competitions **ABC**

- A)** Rules and legislation
- B)** Raising awareness and improving resources
- C)** Supervision, intelligence and investigations



# A) Rules and legislation

- Ethical guidelines issued by international sports federations
- Competition rules issued by sports federations
- Functioning licence systems
- International legislation and agreements (especially the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions)
- Certain sections of the Criminal Code of Finland

## B) Raising awareness and improving resources

- Increasing the availability of training
  - especially with regard to young people
- Reinforcing an ethically sustainable culture/changing attitudes
- Development of research activities
- Surveys, manuals and other instructions
- Risk recognition and reacting to risks (risk analysis)

# C) Supervision, intelligence and investigations

- Veikkaus and GLMS monitor betting and odds changes
- Whistleblowing services
  - FINCIS' ILMO Service
  - The Football Players Association of Finland Red Button mobile app
  - International report channels
- Collecting data from open sources
- Police activities



A woman with her hair in a ponytail, wearing a red long-sleeved jersey with blue accents on the shoulders and back, stands on a green soccer field. She is looking towards a goal in the distance where other players in blue uniforms are visible. The background shows a large stadium filled with spectators.

# Parties involved in manipulation of sports competitions and related legislation

# Parties involved in manipulation of sports competitions

Key parties involved in the prevention of manipulation of sports competitions are

- the sports movement
- betting agencies
- police and judicial authorities

FINCIS prevents manipulation of sports competitions in co-operation with

- Veikkaus
- various sports stakeholders and authorities

FINCIS appoints the chairperson and secretaries of Finland's National Platform and investigates violations related to manipulation together with sports federations.



# National Platform of Finland

Authorities	Sports organisations	Betting agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ministry of Education and Culture</li><li>• National Police Board of Finland</li><li>• National Bureau of Investigation</li><li>• Helsinki Prosecutor's Office</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Finnish Olympic Committee</li><li>• Football Players Association of Finland</li><li>• Football Association of Finland</li><li>• Finnish Center for Integrity in Sports (FINCIS)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Veikkaus</li></ul>
Appointment of the National Platform – Ministry of Education and Culture		
Secretariat – Finnish Center for Integrity in Sports (FINCIS)		

# National Platform

According to Article 13 of the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, National Platforms shall, for example:

- serve as an information hub, collecting and disseminating information;
- co-ordinate the fight against the manipulation of sports competitions;
- receive, centralise and analyse information on irregular and suspicious bets and
- co-operate with all organisations and relevant authorities at national and international levels, including national platforms of other States.

The National Platforms form an unofficial network (Group of Copenhagen).

# Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions

- The Council of Europe established the first convention in Macolin, Switzerland in 2014
- The purpose and goal of the convention:  
*“to combat the manipulation of sports competitions in order to protect the integrity of sport and sports ethics in accordance with the principle of the autonomy of sport”*
- Finland has not yet ratified the convention

# Legislation related to manipulation of sports competitions

- There is no legislation specifically designed to address manipulation of sports competitions in Finland
- Provisions related to bribery in business have primarily been applied
- Manipulation of sports competition can constitute the following sections of the Criminal Code:
  - Fraud
  - Money laundering
  - Giving of a bribe in business
  - Acceptance of a bribe in business

# Challenges related to legislation

- The legislation concerning bribes has not been originally prepared for manipulation of sports competitions.
- In investigations and judgments, only “giving or acceptance of a bribe in business” can be applied instead of fraud, as the target of deceiving (gambling company) is typically unknown.
- The provisions regarding bribes in business do not apply to matches played in lower leagues as being involved in these matches is not considered to be pursuit of a commercial activity.
- **New offence “fraud in sports” as a solution?**



# Corruption and betting markets

# Corruption in sports

- Corruption = taking advantage of a special responsibility for personal interests
- Hundreds of billions of euros flow through sports every year → the cash flows involve certain questionable developments, such as corruption
- **Manipulation of sports competitions is a form of corruption in sports**



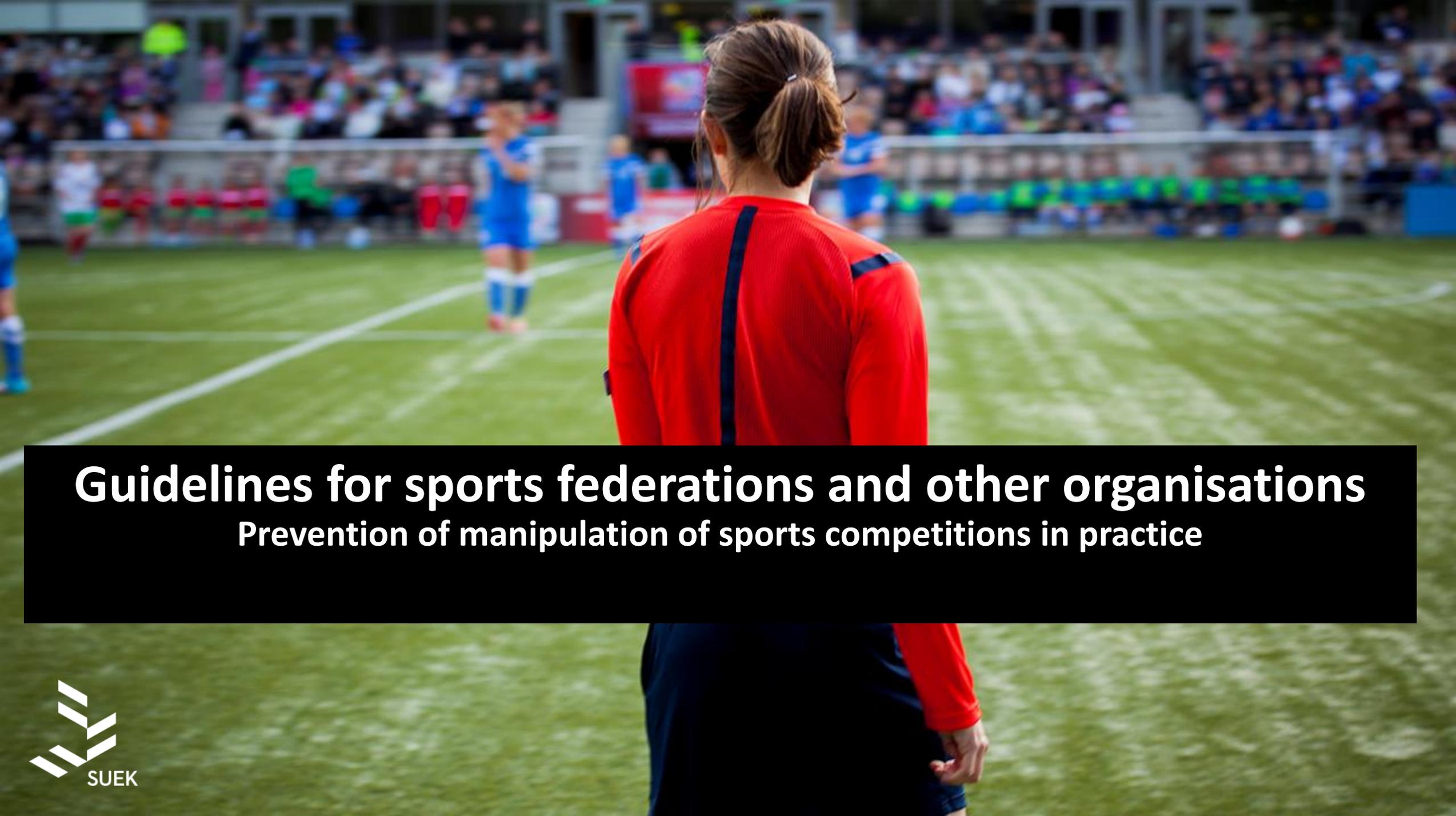
# International betting markets

- Sports betting has become a significant economic activity
- It is possible to place bets on all types of competitions and sports in any country at any time of the day
- Sports betting markets have become global due to:
  - Consolidation of betting markets
  - Increased betting opportunities
  - Internationalisation of sports broadcasts
- Online sports betting is one of the most rapidly growing global forms of betting
  - Online gambling has doubled between 2009 and 2016 (statistics by Statista)
- Live betting on matches and events in progress has particularly increased its popularity

# Organised crime

- Growing betting markets have also attracted more criminal organisations.
- In addition to regulated and legal sports betting, illegal markets have also grown.
- The majority of illegal betting takes place in South and East Asia.

- International crime syndicates have detected vulnerabilities and flaws in judicial systems, legislations and the increase of free mobility.
- Manipulation of sports competitions is a particularly attractive activity for international crime syndicates **due to its high profits and short sentences.**
- Criminal online betting is difficult to track and the related legislation is typically inadequate.

A woman with her hair in a ponytail, wearing a red long-sleeved sports jersey with dark blue accents on the shoulders, stands with her back to the camera on a green soccer field. In the background, other players in blue jerseys are visible on the field, and a large crowd of spectators fills the stadium stands under bright daylight.

# **Guidelines for sports federations and other organisations**

## **Prevention of manipulation of sports competitions in practice**

# Guidelines

1. Adequate and up-to-date competition and disciplinary rules
2. Wide variety of secure information channels
3. Internal guidelines in cases of manipulation of sports competitions
4. Assessment of the threat of manipulation of sports competitions by FINCIS



# 1. Adequate and up-to-date competition and disciplinary rules

- Adequately extensive and up-to-date competition and disciplinary rules are a key part of prevention of manipulation of sports competitions
- With regard to manipulation of sports competitions, competition and/or disciplinary rules should contain articles on the following matters:
  - Manipulation of sports competitions/matches
  - Betting
  - Use of insider information
  - Reporting duty

## 2. Wide variety of secure information channels

A key method of preventing manipulation of sports competitions is reporting and whistleblowing.

- Federations should have a designated contact person to whom reports can be submitted
- Anonymous and secure whistleblowing services are key in providing reports related to manipulation of sports competitions



# 3. Internal guidelines in cases of manipulation of sports competitions

*Federations and other parties are recommended to establish their own internal guidelines for cases of manipulation of sports competitions*

## Example of a protocol

1. The sports federation becomes aware of a case
2. Preliminary processing of the case within the federation and decisions on further actions (if necessary, reports from the parties involved can be requested and FINCIS can be consulted at this stage)
3. Reporting the case to FINCIS and the police
4. If the case is related to agreements between the federation and Veikkaus, Veikkaus must be contacted (in such cases, the federation, FINCIS and Veikkaus typically hold a joint meeting)
5. The police decide on criminal investigations and the federation's disciplinary body of any sanctions imposed

## 4. Assessment of the threat of manipulation of sports competitions by FINCIS

The Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions requires that all contracting parties perform a national risk analysis concerning manipulation of sports competitions.

FINCIS performs the risk analysis accordingly:

- Contact between the federation and FINCIS
- Risk assessment with a survey
- Interview and survey review
- Providing the sports federation with a completed analysis

# 4. Assessment of the threat of manipulation of sports competitions by FINCIS

The Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions requires that all contracting parties perform a national risk analysis concerning manipulation of sports competitions.

FINCIS performs the risk analysis accordingly:

- Contact between the federation and FINCIS
- Risk assessment with a survey
- Interview and survey review
- Providing the sports federation with a completed analysis



**What can I do as an athlete?**

*“Sports has always been an important part of my life. When you play sports, you forget everything else and feel present in a way that is difficult to find elsewhere. This is a result of the sport being pure and competing with a certain set of rules. A match or a competition must be won on the pitch instead of agreeing on the result on the sidelines. In sports, everything is possible and the underdog can sometimes win and succeed. If the result is determined in advance, the beauty of sports all but vanishes. Identify, object and report is a simple way to approach foul play. If it is suggested to you to take part in foul play or you notice foul play, report it. Sports is dear to us, so let’s keep it pure and as beautiful as possible.”*

Rasmus Schüller, football player



Photo: Juha Tamminen/  
Football Association of Finland

## You can be banned from sports or suffer legal consequences, so

1. Know the rules that apply to you
2. Never bet on your own matches or competitions or matches in the league you compete in. Never ask others to place bets for you.
3. Always do your best
4. Never disclose insider information about your own team or yourself
5. Report anything suspicious



## If you are asked to take part in manipulation of sports competitions or you become aware of a violation:

- 1. Identify** or **observe** the attempted manipulation of sports competitions. **Reject** the offer politely but firmly.
- 2. Report** the request or a possible violation to your sports federation, players' association, FINCIS or, if you want to, directly to the police.
- 3. Keep** all the information you have, such as SMS and e-mail messages sent to you. You can take screenshots to save this information, for instance.

# Reporting manipulation of sports competitions

- Submitting a report is easy online
- You can submit the report anonymously or using your name
- The report will be processed confidentially

**Everyone is responsible for protecting sports and athletes**



# FAIR WIN

Refresh your skills by online training

- Fair Win is an online training for athletes and their supporters
- An easy-to-learn information package about manipulation of sports competitions as a phenomenon
- A diploma is awarded for completing and passing the training





# Thank you!