

## SPORTS INTEGRITY



### Match Fixing News (June to August 2010)

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#### The Pakistani cricket spot-fixing scandal

##### What happened?

A reporter from *News of the World* posed as a member of a Far East gambling cartel and paid a total of £ 150'000 to Mazhar Majeed, the alleged match-fixer and manager of 10 players of the Pakistani team. In return Majeed gave exact information about no-balls which will happen during the test match on August 28. This information included the name of the bowler and the exact ball and over (e.g. Amir is bowling a no-ball on the first ball of the third over of the innings).

This conversation was video-taped with a hidden camera, and then made public on August 29.

When Mohammad Asif and 18-year-old Mohammad Amir bowled no-balls, they did it so blatantly that TV commentators and reporters wondered about the „mistakes“, e.g. the huge margin of overstepping.

##### Direct consequences:

The material was also given to Scotland Yard, who arrested Majeed on the evening of August 28. Investigations are underway and statements have been taken from the players. Documents and mobile phones of the parties involved have been confiscated.

The three main players involved, Asif, Amir, and alleged ringleader and team captain Salman Butt, are suspended from cricket under suspicion of spot-fixing.

(Cricket) Authorities demand life-time bans for involved players if the accusations prove right.

The International Cricket Council ICC is looking into the last 80 (!) matches of Pakistan's team. This also includes Pakistan's tour of Australia in March 2010 where they played extraordinary badly and lost all their matches. This of course led to speculations about the integrity of the team. Pakistani cricketer Yasir Hameed stated that his team mates were involved in fixing almost every match.

#### Two men charged in German football match-fixing probe

On August 25, German prosecutors in Bochum charged two people with fraud after claims they were part of a Europe-wide conspiracy to pay referees and players €350,000 to fix 24 football matches.

Reportedly, the two unidentified men were among the leaders of the match-fixing ring. The two men, who according to prosecutors made more than €1.45 million betting on matches, were charged with aggravated fraud and are in pre-trial detention.

In November 2009 German police arrested 17 people in the scandal that hit leagues in nine countries, including Germany, Turkey and Switzerland. Of the 24 matches that prosecutors say were fixed, 10 were in Germany.

Wiretaps and 50 raids conducted in November yielded evidence pointing to 200 suspects.

## **UEFA questions Croatian referee over match-fixing**

August 17, 2010. The Croatian Football Federation says a UEFA investigator is questioning a Croatian referee about a national league match the German police suspect was fixed.

Bruno Maric was questioned for three hours on Wednesday in Zagreb. Maric was the ref when Dinamo Zagreb beat Hajduk Split 3-0 in the final of the national Cup.

German prosecutors, who have been investigating match-fixing across Europe since November, said recently they suspect 270 matches in several countries, including Croatia, and more than 250 people.

They say profits from manipulated bets amounted to €7.5 million (\$9.6 million).

## **Chinese commercial manager detained in fix probe**

August 13, 2010. Shao Wenzhong, the head of the commercial arm of China's football association, has been detained by police as part of a widening investigation into match fixing, state media reported yesterday.

Twenty officials have been arrested this year, including the head of the national football association, as part of a government crackdown on corruption. In February two top-flight clubs were relegated to the second division after club officials were found guilty of match fixing and gambling.

## **Zimbabwe suspends football chief over match-fixing**

On July 29, Zimbabwe's football federation suspended its chief executive, Henrietta Rushwaya, on suspicion of fixing the national team's matches during a tour of Asia last December.

"The decision has been necessitated by alleged acts of mismanagement and the serious irregularities surrounding the national team's trip to Asia in December 2009," said Zimbabwe football federation president Cuthbert Dube. Zimbabwe lost 6-0 to Syria in Kuala Lumpur and 3-0 to Thailand on that tour held in Malaysia.

The issue has been referred to world governing body FIFA.

## **FIFA sets up players' match-fixing hotline**

**June 2010. FIFA had stepped up its fight against match-fixing ahead of the 2010 World Cup, including setting up a confidential hotline for players, coaches and referees to report any attempts to bribe them.**

FIFA's Early Warning System (EWS) monitored all matches at the showpiece tournament in South Africa, while more than 400 bookmakers, incl. ELMS had agreed to report any irregular betting.

EWS would monitor and analyze the sports betting market on the internet and would remain in contact with several investigation units, including Interpol.

Among the measures to be taken were the creation of a telephone hotline for people who could be approached, such as players, coaches, referees and FIFA officials.

All players and other participants in the tournament were bound by a FIFA code of ethics and disciplinary code and would be given information beforehand about betting, match-fixing and the monitoring system.