

UNITED NATIONS CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE: HOW DO NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION INITIATIVES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST MATCH-FIXING STACK-UP?

Karen L. Jones
Asser Instituut, Asser International Sports Law Centre

Aim

The goal of this paper is to provide useful insight into the activities that are being engaged by various non-governmental organizations in the ongoing fight against match-fixing in sports; particularly professional football in Europe.

Practice description

The problem of sports corruption in match-fixing is a serious international issue in the world of sports and threatens the integrity of sports competitions. Much focus has been given to the criminal laws that address the issue of sports fraud or sports corruption, particularly in betting, doping, money laundering and match-fixing. Various institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders have become involved in the fight against match-fixing. There are various initiatives and many collaborations between stakeholders. Much of this activity by sports organizations, NGOs, and other stakeholders primarily focuses on providing education and information to players and the sports community about the dangers and impacts of match-fixing. Another area gaining some attention is that of transparency and how organizations might more effectively share information regarding match-fixing that would be beneficial in supporting investigative efforts of law enforcement officials and sports organizations. Some examples of collaborations include the Deutsche Fusaballiga joining forces with Transparency International to offer education and awareness to players and coaches in an effort to prevent match-fixing. Another pairing up occurred when FIFA donated 20 million dollars to INTERPOL to help prevent match-fixing. This has resulted in initiatives around the world by INTERPOL to provide education and awareness as well as link institutional organizations to engage in match-fixing efforts. The announcement in March 2013 of UEFA collaborating with several other European sports organizations to focus efforts on preventing match-fixing. What has not been communicated is a clear picture of all of the governance activities currently engaged by the various stakeholders. Further it would be beneficial to understand whether or not the activities that are being engaged will help to strengthen the goals of governance of sports.

Context description/actors involved

This research will compare the governance activities engaged by various NGOs at the international and European level to identify the types of activities that are being engaged. Next this research will compare the activities with a model of good governance, in particular the United Nations 8 Characteristics of Good Governance. Finally, this research will identify any gaps that exist between the activities being engaged by stakeholders in the fight against match-fixing and the 8 Characteristics of Good Governance.

Implications and learning

This research will help to identify areas that are not being given as much attention and perhaps provide indications on where non-governmental organizations should place more focus in an effort to achieve good governance in addressing the problem of match-fixing in professional football in Europe.