



Legal Aspects of Competition Manipulation

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Competition manipulation or match-fixing (both terms are often used as synonyms) is an intentional arrangement, either act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a sports competition so as to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the sports competition with a view to obtaining an undue benefit for oneself or for others. Breaking the unpredictability of the final outcome is the crucial element that actually provides both an immoral and an illegal dimension to this behaviour.

The manipulation of sports competitions, in particular when linked to betting activities, has become an area of great concern. Like doping, it threatens the very integrity of sport. Often, it also has links to other criminal activities such as corruption, organized crime and money-laundering.

On 18.09.2014, the sports ministers of 15 of the member states of the Council of Europe signed an important legal instrument against match-fixing worldwide: Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, also known as the Macolin Convention'. The Convention, that actually concerns the manipulation of sports competitions, includes a Preamble and is divided into 9 Chapters made up of 41 Articles that cover in total: prevention, law enforcement, international co-operation measures and the exchange of information. The Convention is open for signature by non-European member states and is the only internationally applicable Convention specifically dealing with competition manipulation.

In 2020, CISM and the IOC, specifically the Olympic Movement Unit on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions) started a partnership and a campaign in order to protect CISM sports events from the risk of manipulation. The purpose of this presentation is to emphasize the basic points of the legal framework set by the aforementioned Convention, which are applicable in this partnership.