

Forum: International Olympic Committee

Issue: Addressing Issues of Corruption and Ensuring Ethical Conduct in Sports Administration.

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Introduction:

Addressing issues of corruption and ensuring ethical conduct in sports administration is key to ensuring the integrity and credibility of sporting competitions worldwide. The International Olympic Committee (IOC), being a leading global sports organization, plays an important role in upholding such standards and guidelines that promote fairness, transparency and accountability. The effects of corruption in sports have long-lasting effects on both public trust and the reputation of sporting organizations, thus establishing frameworks that prioritize fairness and transparency is critical in ensuring the sustainability of international sports.

Unfortunately, the reality is that corruption has been and probably will always be a persistent and prominent issue, with numerous cases of bribery, fraud, and other forms of unethical behaviour happening through the years and even now, during the Paris 2024 Olympics. These incidents show a need for urgent reforms in regulations and administrations.

The overall objective is to ensure that sports administration remains free from corruption and injustice to set an example for future ethical conduction and accountability in all fields, not just limited to sports. In doing so, the IOC is aiming to create a lasting positive legacy for sports and society, where fairness and transparency are not just vague rules but fundamental principles guiding every aspect of sports administration.

Definition of Key Terms:

- 1. Corruption:** illegal, bad, or dishonest behaviour, especially by people in positions of power:
- 2. Ethical Conduct:** behaviour relating to beliefs about what is morally right

3. **Sports Administration:** the arrangements and tasks needed to control the operation of a game, competition, or activity needing physical effort and skill that is played or done according to rules, for enjoyment and/or as a job:
4. **Nepotism:** the act of using your power or influence to get good jobs or unfair advantages for a relative
5. **Whistleblowing:** a person who tells someone in authority about something illegal that is happening, especially in a government department or a company
6. **Doping:** the act of giving a person or animal drugs to make them perform better or worse in a competition

Background Information

The following are some events in Olympic history that have brought out corruption and unethical conduct in some events, which now lead to this being a prevalent issue to be debated upon in the Olympic Council.

SOCOG Ticket Scandal (1999)

The scandal involved improper ticket sales for the 2000 Sydney Olympics, where tickets were sold to wealthy businessmen through exclusive channels, bypassing the general public. This controversy led to reforms in ticketing practices to ensure greater transparency and fairness in future Olympic Games.

Salt Lake City Scandal (2002)

Bribery involving money and gifts to IOC members for the 2002 Winter Olympics was exposed. The scandal resulted in the dismissal of several IOC members and prompted significant reforms to enhance transparency and reduce corruption within the IOC's bidding processes.

Lance Armstrong Doping Case (2012)

Lance Armstrong was stripped of his seven consecutive Tour de France titles and an Olympic medal due to a doping investigation. This case emphasized the importance of stringent anti-doping measures and led to increased awareness and enforcement against performance-enhancing drugs across sports.

Russian Doping Scandal (2014-2016)

A state-sponsored doping program in Russia was uncovered, leading to Russia's ban from the 2018 Winter Olympics. This scandal highlighted the need for robust international anti-doping efforts and reforms in testing and monitoring practices to ensure fair competition.

Tennis Match-Fixing Scandal (2016)

The scandal involved match-fixing by 16 players and coaching staff, affecting the integrity of tennis. It resulted in heightened scrutiny and the implementation of measures to combat corruption and ensure fair play in the sport.

Brazilian Olympic Committee Corruption (2017)

Corruption involving vote-buying for Rio de Janeiro's bid to host the 2016 Olympics was revealed. This scandal led to reforms aimed at increasing transparency and accountability in the Olympic bidding process.

International Biathlon Union Scandal (2018)

The scandal involved protecting Russia from doping cases in biathlon. It exposed significant governance issues and led to reforms focused on improving anti-doping measures and enforcing stricter penalties to ensure clean competition.

Current Situation

Efforts to prevent corruption and ensure ethical conduct in sports have led to the establishment of the [IOC Ethics Commission](#), which aims to uphold integrity by investigating breaches and promoting transparency. Additionally, the [Olympic Agenda 2020](#) outlines comprehensive reforms to improve governance, sustainability, and inclusivity within the Olympic movement.

Financial interests

Financial interests significantly influence sports organizations. Hosting organizations can gain substantial financial benefits through corrupt practices. On an individual level, athletes may find the reputation and monetary rewards from winning competitions appealing, potentially leading to unethical conduct.

Legal frameworks

Legal frameworks are in place to combat corruption, but enforcement is often insufficient. Loopholes exist, and individuals frequently seek ways to circumvent legal

consequences. Moreover, regulatory checks are not always adequately implemented, with instances of bribery and corruption occurring within the frameworks themselves, undermining their effectiveness.

Sports governance structures

Sports governance structures play a critical role in enforcing ethical standards. However, the varying governance structures of different sports organizations can impact their ability to maintain these standards, sometimes leading to inconsistencies in how corruption and unethical behavior are addressed.

Sponsorship and partnership

Sponsorship and partnership can have mixed effects on sports. While sponsorship provides essential funding, it can also lead to negative influences if sponsors collaborate with sports organizations to exploit system loopholes or support corrupt behaviors. This willingness to cooperate financially can establish a base for unethical conduct.

Government involvement

Government involvement varies, affecting how much corruption is tolerated within sports. The extent of government participation in sports administration and oversight can influence the level of unethical behavior permitted, with some governments potentially allowing certain corrupt practices to continue unchallenged.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

One of the biggest issues when it comes to corruption in sports, and especially as far as doping is concerned, is where WADA holds a host role. The fundamental objective of WADA's anti-doping Code is to assist in efforts to eliminate doping from sport. It therefore upholds the standard of sports through a stringent process of testing, studying and learning as well. It acts as a global firm cracking down on all forms of doping to guarantee that clean athletes everywhere can obtain the level playing field they deserve, and stands for transparency within the worldwide sports community.

United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Among other issues, the UNODC is focused on corruption and organized crime worldwide — in sports as well. It aims to learn and share how these types of corruption operate, proliferate or play out in sports. The UNODC renders assistance on various capacity-building projects, advocates for ridding of corruption through anti-corruption mutual legal cooperation mechanisms and countermeasures (ex. Anticorruptio), and urges continuous assistance in international cooperation to work against the ongoing battle of corruption that exists within sports around the world... The Organisation is dedicated to improving transparency, accountability and ethical behaviour in world sport.

International Association for Athletic Federations (IAAF)- Present: World Athletics

World Athletics (formerly IAAF) has committed to address corruption and ethical conduct in athletics. The Organization has also taken steps to strengthen governance and integrity, with reforms for increased transparency and accountability. It is designed to uphold the highest ethical standards and prevent corruption in the sport of track & field.

The Ethics Commission

In 1999 the IOC became one of the first sports organisations to establish an independent ethics commission, aimed at safeguarding these values. However, these principles are prescribed in the Code of Ethics and its Implementing Provisions. The main missions of this commission are to maintain the Code of Ethics, study cases concerning possible violations and propose sanctions if necessary. Its independence is also secured through its nine-member commission. "The Chair and the majority of the members are not IOC Members, Honorary Members or former IOC Members, but rather independent personalities. The Chair and all the members of the Commission are elected by the IOC Session, for a term of four years, and they may be re-elected twice."

Countries involved

USA

The U.S. Department of State emphasizes international cooperation to combat corruption, promoting transparency and accountability in sports organizations. The U.S. actively participates in global anti-corruption efforts and supports initiatives to ensure ethical conduct in sports

Germany

Germany, through Transparency International, highlights the importance of

transparency and human rights in sports. It advocates for stronger measures against corruption in sports and promotes integrity through policy recommendations and educational initiatives. UKAD (UK Anti-Doping) plays a key role in maintaining sports integrity by enforcing anti-doping regulations and promoting clean sports. UKAD focuses on testing, investigations, and education to prevent doping and uphold ethical standards in sports.

Australia

Sports Integrity Australia addresses issues like doping, match-fixing, and athlete welfare to uphold ethical standards in sports. The agency implements national policies, provides education, and works with international bodies to maintain sports integrity. The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) leads efforts to promote ethical conduct through comprehensive anti-doping programs and educational initiatives. CCES collaborates with international organizations to ensure compliance with global standards and prevent unethical practices.

China

The Chinese Anti-Doping Agency (CHINADA) is committed to maintaining a doping-free sports environment by conducting rigorous testing and providing education on anti-doping practices. CHINADA collaborates with international organizations to enhance testing methods and uphold ethical standards.

Brazil

The Brazilian Olympic Committee (COB) emphasizes transparency and ethical conduct in sports by implementing anti-doping education and compliance measures. COB works to uphold international standards and promotes integrity in sports, focusing on long-term educational programs to maintain a fair sporting environment.

South Korea

The Korea Anti-Doping Agency (KADA) plays a crucial role in promoting clean sports through comprehensive anti-doping testing and educational programs. KADA is dedicated to preventing doping and ensuring ethical conduct, contributing significantly to the integrity of athletics in South Korea.

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The United Nations has played a pivotal role in promoting ethical conduct and correcting malpractices in the Olympic Games. By fostering global cooperation and

implementing international standards, the UN has significantly influenced the integrity of sports worldwide. One of the key areas of involvement is in anti-doping measures, emphasizing fairness and transparency in sports.

- **International Convention against Doping in Sport, 2005**
 - This convention, adopted by UNESCO, seeks to combat doping in sports by harmonizing anti-doping policies and regulations globally. Its effectiveness is evident in increased international cooperation and stricter anti-doping measures.
- **Resolution 58/5: Sport as a Means to Promote Education, Health, Development, and Peace, 2003 (A/RES/58/5)**
 - This resolution recognizes sport as a powerful tool for fostering education, health, and peace.
- **Resolution 70/1: Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2015 (A/RES/70/1)**
 - This agenda underscores the role of sports in sustainable development and peacebuilding.
- **United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2003**
 - It addresses corruption in sports, promoting accountability and integrity.
- **Resolution 73/24: Building a Peaceful and Better World through Sport and the Olympic Ideal, 2018 (A/RES/73/24)**
- **Kazakhstan Resolution, 2019 (P8_TA(2019)0203)**
- **Global Programme on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption and Crime, 2019**
- **Resolution 74/20: Sport as an Enabler of Sustainable Development, 2019 (A/RES/74/20)**

Possible Solutions

Following is a series of actionable solutions to the issue that we would like to see discussed during the debate. However, it is encouraged that these solutions are more elaborated during sessions.

Proposed Solutions

Build Robust Enforcement and Check System

Build detailed compliance frameworks and monitoring systems across sports bodies to identify malpractice at an early stage. Leverage technology for real-time audits & strengthen whistleblower protection to foster reporting.

Exceptions and Considerations: They are expensive to set up and require international cooperation, potentially limiting their efficiency. There are concerns, however, regarding compliance with these standards—though—the case of FIFA's reforms stands out as well—and illustrates how difficult it can be to enforce across a wide range of organisations.

Educational programs for ethics

Establish and incorporate compulsory education on ethics, and integrity for all sports administrators and players. Long-term emphasis on educating for fairness and transparency.

Exceptions and Considerations: This is tough work — it can be difficult to balance education across different cultural contexts and you need a lot of buy-in to get something like this adopted. But if something like the Olympic Values Education Program can raise both questions in a Utopian world, then ethical education would be raised at scale too.

Improve Transparency When Bidding and Hosting

To make the process more transparent for bidding and hosting of major events by publishing criteria used in selection decisions. For that, incorporate a 3rd party witness to ensure fairness.

Exceptions and Considerations: How can transparency initiatives harmonise privacy with the public good? For reasons made obvious by past Olympic host selections, there are too many points along the journey where trust comes into question and right now it feels like the clean-up needs to start with clear & public criteria.

Promoting International Cooperation and Policy Convergence

Encourage global cooperation to standardise anti-corruption measures and exchange best practices among sports organisations globally. Elicit cross-border investigations and partnerships.

Exceptions and Considerations: Conflicting legal frameworks and priorities between BIT-accord countries may restrict international cooperation. The World Anti-Doping Agency's existence and global mandate, demonstrate the potential to align international initiatives against corruption.

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