



FROM THE INTEGRITY OFFICER'S DESK

3 19 - 06 - 2012

MATCH FIXING

People Involved :

- *A player who deliberately makes mistakes leading to his team's defeat or causes certain pre-arranged events during the game (next yellow card, next throw-in, next free kick, etc.);*
- *Several players from the same team whose joint action deliberately causes their team to lose, sometimes by a particular scoreline, or who give rise to certain pre-arranged events during the game.*
- *The referee, and possibly the referee's assistants (e.g. awarding penalties in order to increase the number of goals scored; or, more discreetly, favouring one team more or less systematically);*
- *The coach through selection of players, effecting substitutions and making tactical decisions. Usually, a coach's actions are not sufficient on their own and it is more common for corrupt coaches to secure the help of one or more players.*
- *Club officials, e.g. by recruiting players who they know or think are or will be willing to fix matches, or by bringing pressure to bear on the coach and/or players to fix matches;*
- *Players' agents who operate through players within their own pool of players.*

RECRUITMENT OF FIXERS :

People can be recruited to fix matches in different ways:

- *Friendly approach, frequent contact, gifts, encouragement, flattery, etc., which then creates a favourable situation to a match fixing proposal;*
- *Schemes that can later be used for blackmail (e.g. offering prostitutes; relationship secrets, encouragement to gamble and sink into debt);*
- *Intimidation and threats to the physical well-being of the person concerned and/or his family.*
- *Once a person agrees to fix a match, it is a trap with no escape route. It is his /her doom.*

COMMON RECRUITMENT TARGETS :

Recruiters generally approach people who they know or think are more vulnerable or, for other reasons, more receptive to a proposal than others:

- *Players or coaches who are known to be badly paid, or whose club delays payment of salaries or are unhappy with their situation in the club;*
- *Referees in financial difficulties or in dispute with their association;*
- *Young, inexperienced players;*
- *Players at the end of their career, who have not enjoyed the sporting and/or financial success they had hoped for;*
- *People in debt, particularly with gambling debts (the most vulnerable are those addicted to gambling);*
- *Foreign professional players in leagues or lower level competitions where the level of players' salaries and fringe benefits does not correspond with the standard of the general public in the country they live in.*

It is easier to fix a match with the help of key players who can ensure their team loses. Recruiters therefore often target goalkeepers, defenders and team captains, and sometimes regular goal-scorers. ft