



## IFA Rules against illegal and irregular betting and match-fixing

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### Preamble

The International Fistball Association (IFA), being aware, that

- betting is part of sport since the beginning;
- sports betting is a way of demonstrating the public's attachment to sports and athletes;
- sports betting, offered by national lotteries or private operators, is one of the most important means of financing sport;
- without sport, there is no sports betting;
- national legislation concerning the participation of sports betting operators to the financing of the sports movement is different from one country to another; however everything possible must be done to ensure a fair return from the betting operators, not only for the organizers of sports events, but more generally for the development of sport;
- everything possible must be done to ensure the integrity of sports competitions; and being committed to safeguard the integrity in Fistball has established the following rules against illegal and irregular betting and match-fixing:

### Definitions:

**Participants:** Participants in any IFA sports events and competitions sanctioned by any member federation, including all accredited individuals like athletes, judges, the athletes' entourage, IFA and member federation employees, officials and families, and the event organizing committee and their entourage.

**Inside Information:** Any non-public information relating to any competition or event that a participant possesses by virtue of his/her position within the sport. Such information includes, but is not limited to, factual information regarding the competitors, the conditions, tactical considerations, injuries, or any other aspect of the competition or event but does not include such information that is already published or a matter of public record, readily acquired by an interested member of the public, or disclosed according to the rules and regulations governing the relevant competition or event.

**Manipulation of sports results/match fixing:** irregularly influencing the course or the result of a sports event in order to obtain advantage for oneself or for others and to remove all or part of the uncertainty normally associated with the results of a competition.

**Match Corruption:** Promising, offering, giving, requesting or receiving any bribe or other reward or accepting the promise or offer thereof to fix or otherwise to influence improperly the result, or any other aspect of a sports event.

**Sports betting:** all sports betting-based games that involve wagering a stake with a monetary value in games in which participants may win, in full or in part, a monetary prize based, totally or partially, on chance or uncertainty of an outcome. (i.e. fixed and running odds, totalizator/toto games, live betting, betting exchange, spread betting and other games offered by sports betting operators, etc.):

- **Legal betting:** types of betting that are allowed on a specific territory or jurisdiction by a regulator or government (i.e. explicit permission given to legal companies to operate).

- **Illegal betting:** types of betting which are not legal in the country as well as betting activities proposed by unofficial companies or simply in „back-stores.

- **Irregular betting:** when irregularities and abnormalities in the bets placed or the event upon which the bets are placed can be identified.

**Sports integrity:** to preserve the fundamental character of sporting competition as an honest test of skill and ability; to act on and off the field in ways consistent with preserving the social and economic value of sport.

### **1. Prohibition of betting:**

Participants are prohibited to take part in all forms of, or support for, betting related to competitions in Fistball.

### **2. Prohibition of match-fixing:**

Participants have an obligation to safeguard the integrity of sport by refraining from any attempt to influence the elements of a competition in a manner contrary to sporting ethics.

### **3. Prohibition to disclose inside information:**

Participants are prohibited to disclose confidential insider information on their sport.

### **4. IFA Code of conduct on sports betting integrity for athletes and officials:**

IFA establishes a code of conduct on sports betting integrity for athletes and officials and participants. All participants are required to sign this code of conduct before receiving admittance to the event.

### **5. IFA representative:**

IFA agrees to nominate a representative as the focal point on all matters related to betting and match-fixing. This representative will be determined by the IFA Board of Directors and will be selected under procedures determined by such Board.

### **6. Confidentiality:**

IFA commits to ensuring confidentiality with regard to unproven allegations of match fixing.

### **7. Offences:**

IFA considers as offences as per these rule the following actions:

- a. Participants in any sports event, and their entourage, participating in all forms of, or support for, betting or gambling related to their own matches and competitions in their sport;
- b. Failing, for reward, to perform to one`s abilities;
- c. Instructing, encouraging or facilitating any other party to bet;
- d. Inducing, instructing or encouraging any participant to breach any of the established offences;
- e. Ensuring the occurrence of a particular incident, which is the subject of a bet and for which he/she expects to receive or has received any reward;
- f. Providing or receiving any gift, payment or other benefit in circumstances that might reasonably have been expected to bring the athlete or the sport into disrepute;
- g. Using any Inside Information for betting purposes, including disclosing Inside Information to any person (with or without reward) where the athlete might reasonably be expected to know that its disclosure could be used in relation to betting;

- h. Failing to disclose information to the competent IFA or competition authority (without undue delay) full details of any approaches, invitations to engage in conduct, or incidents that would amount to a breach of IFA or competition rules related to betting;
- i. Failing to cooperate with any reasonable investigation carried out by IFA or competition authority, including failure to provide any information and/or requested documentation, including records relating to the alleged breach (such as itemized telephone bills, bank statements, internet service records, computers, hard drives and other electronic information storage devices);
- j. To knowingly assist, cover up or otherwise be complicit in any acts previously described committed by a participant. The participant shall be treated as having committed such acts themselves and shall be liable accordingly.

## **8. Disciplinary Procedure:**

The disciplinary procedure in the case of a breach of these rules is determined according to the IFA Conduct Policy. That includes the determination of the enquiry body, the right to be heard and to appeal, and a possible sanction in the event of such breaches.

In the framework of the establishment of means for IFA and the respective competition authorities of effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions and provisional measures for participants found in breach of the sports regulations related to Sports Betting, IFA shall have the right to all appropriate measures including cancellation of sports events where a risk of fraud has been established/identified; cancellation of sports results where fraud has been established; temporary or permanent bans on further sports activities, demotion, points reduction, return of rewards, reimbursement of caused material damage, fines etc.

These potential measures include the temporary prohibition from participation by participants under prosecution for betting related offences.

The IFA disciplinary procedures in line with agreed international general principles of law and ensuring respect for the fundamental rights of suspected participants include:

- a. the reporting and disciplinary bodies to be distinct from one another;
- b. the right to be heard and to be informed of the charge;
- c. the right of such persons to a fair hearing and to be assisted or represented;
- d. clear and enforceable provisions for appealing against any judgment made;
- e. a possible sanction in the event of an established breach;

IFA agrees to the mutual recognition of suspensions and sanctions imposed by other international and national level sports organizations and government authorities.

## **9. Guidelines concerning financial agreements with betting operators:**

These guidelines concerning financial agreements with any betting operator specify:

- that there is to be no use of the Olympic brand (nor use of any IFA or member federation emblem); no use of an IF's Intellectual Property (IP) without prior agreement;
- there is to be a strict respect of the game rules of Fistball as a sport;
- there is to be no betting on events exclusively involving minors;
- there is to be no betting on certain types of events and part of the competition;
- there is to be involvement in financial partnerships only with betting operators that are prepared to fully cooperate and share data with the monitoring system being used (and/or which accept specifically to disclose personal data regarding betting);
- that there is an economic fair return from the betting operators, not only for the organizers of sports events, but also for the development of all sports.

## **10. Communication, Education and Prevention Program:**

IFA and its member federations will closely co-operate in implementing a Communication, Education and Prevention Program that includes:

- a plan for the media in order to communicate that the IOC and IFA or the respective member federation, are addressing the issue of betting in sport;
- the implementation of programs that include the provision of information and educational material to athletes and their entourage, with a focus on young people, including full use of new media and the constituents' Athletes' Commissions, particularly during competitions;
- an exchange of best practices between the constituents of the Olympic Movement (the IOC, IFA and the member federations);
- the establishment of a confidential "hotline" for the athletes, athletes' entourage and others to pass on information if they are aware of a corruption or a threat to the integrity of sport.

## **11. Co-operation with public authorities:**

IFA and its member federations will develop a collaboration with the public authorities (national and regional governments) and their agencies to promote legislation and public policies which contribute to preserving the integrity of sport and to the fight against corruption in sport and ensure a fair return from the betting operators, not only for the organizers of sports events, but also more generally for the development of sport and develop agreements with police investigation agencies, such as Interpol and Europol, particularly for cooperation with regard to criminal inquiries and the exchange of information in the event of suspicious betting patterns and/or breach of sports integrity rules.

**approved by the IFA Executive Board on 20 June 2015 at the meeting in Vienna**