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Editors

# Sports Betting: Law and Policy

T · M · C · A S S E R P R E S S

 Springer

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## Series Information

Books in the *ASSER International Sports Law Series* chart and comment upon the legal and policy developments in European and international sports law. The books contain materials on interstate organisations and the international sports governing bodies, and will serve as comprehensive and relevant reference tools for all those involved in the area on a professional basis.

The Series is developed, edited and published by the ASSER International Sports Law Centre in The Hague. The Centre's mission is to provide a centre of excellence in particular by providing high-quality research, services and products to the sporting world at large (sports ministries, international—intergovernmental—organisations, sports associations and federations, the professional sports industry, etc.) on both a national and an international basis. The Centre is the co-founder and coordinator of the Hague International Sports Law Academy (HISLA), the purpose of which is the organisation of academic conferences and workshops of international excellence which are held in various parts of the world. Apart from the Series, the Centre edits and publishes *The International Sports Law Journal*.

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# Foreword

I am very pleased and honoured to have been invited to write the foreword to this timely book. I use the word ‘timely’ advisedly to characterise this book as, sadly, more and more cases of corruption—of one kind or another—in sport are regularly being exposed by the world’s media. Not surprisingly, perhaps, because there is so much to play for, not only in sporting terms but also in financial ones as sport nowadays is big business and a global industry in its own right!

Take, for example, a couple of recent instances of corruption in sport. The disclosures by *The Sunday Times* newspaper of corruption in the bidding process for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, resulting in bans being imposed on the two members of the FIFA Executive Committee alleged to have been involved in this scandal by offering their votes to the England bidding team in return for substantial monetary payments. And also the exposure by the *News of the World* newspaper on ‘match fixing’ or—more properly described—‘spot fixing’ in cricket involving certain members of the Pakistan National Cricket Team during the 4th Test between England and Pakistan at Lords in which, it is alleged, that they deliberately bowled ‘no balls’ at predetermined points in an over, as pre-arranged and agreed with a certain bookmaker, who would take bets on when ‘no balls’ would be bowled during the match.

Betting and sport have been—to some extent—uneasy bedfellows probably since the dawn of time: for example, lottery games were originally played in China some three thousand years ago! Not only is it enjoyable to watch a sporting event, but added excitement and interest come from also being able to bet on the outcome of it. In fact, horse racing depends upon betting for its very survival as a sport. As David Forest points out in his contribution to this book:

...betting has been a pervasive influence on sport. For example, betting companies have become a dominant source of sponsorship in English Premier League football and the famous shirts of Real Madrid are now adorned with the logo of a bookmaker.

This book looks at the Law and the Policy on Betting and Sport in many countries around the world—sport is a global phenomenon—and thus provides a very useful and valuable comparative survey on a subject that is so vital to

safeguarding and preserving the integrity of those sports in which betting is legally allowed.

In fact, the International Olympic Committee now requires all athletes participating in the Summer and Winter Games to sign a declaration that they will not be involved in betting. Also, the European Governing Body of Football (UEFA) has introduced a sophisticated system for monitoring betting markets on matches under its or its members' jurisdiction. And the United Kingdom Government has recently enunciated a formal policy requiring sports to defend themselves against 'fixers' (UK Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 2010).

Of course, with such preventive measures in place, sport and betting can—and do, in fact—coexist for their mutual benefit. Indeed, National Lotteries raise substantial sums of money for 'good causes,' which include the funding of sports events and sports persons.

I warmly congratulate Professors Paul Anderson, Ian Blackshaw and Robert Siekmann, the Editors of this book, as well as the contributors, in assembling such a mine of useful information on such an important subject; and also the TMC Asser Press for publishing this material.

I would, therefore, welcome and heartily commend this book to sports lawyers and all others with a particular professional, academic and policy interest in the subject, including those who are involved in the organisation and administration of National Lottery Schemes benefitting sport.

After all, the essence of sport is 'fair play' and illegal and unfair betting arrangements and the manipulation of the outcomes—in one way or another—of sporting events are completely anathema and contrary to this fundamental concept and principle. And long may this be so!

The Hague, January 2011

Tjeerd Veenstra  
Director of the Dutch De Lotto  
Second Vice-President, The European Lotteries

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