Finnish Rules and Measures to Combat Match Fixing

Nordic Sport Law Seminar
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MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET
Finnish Rules and Measures to Combat Match Fixing

”Brief” history of Finnish match fixing
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"Brief" history of Finnish match fixing

It used to be....
"Brief" History of Finnish Match Fixing

...and then it turned to this....

- 1990's Finnish Baseball Match Fixing Scandal
- 2005 Allianssi Case
- 2006 Speedy Nissinen
- 2006 Alexander Mitschuk
- 2008-2011 RoPS
- 2011-12 TamU and PoPa money laundering charges
+ various cases where suspicious betting behaviour
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Some remarks:

- In first cases (baseball, Speedy Nissinen) the victim was National Lottery Veikkaus and honest people who bet on their matches
- now betting takes place at international and often illegal market
- Money laundering, international crime
- Nissinen, Mitschuk, RoPS and money laundering cases lead to sentences
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Legal framework in Finland

- Penal Code
- Sport Act
- Statutes, rules, codes and regulations of Federations

Measures

- EWS
- Recommendations
- Education
- Platforms
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Penal Code

- No specific legislation for sport betting crimes
- Sanctions have been based on general penal code clauses:
  - Fraud
  - Bribery in business activities
  - Money laundering
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Sport Act

- Under reform → new law into force 2014
- Integrity issues to be amended to Sport Act?
  - Integrity office (enlarged NADA) → report how coordination of integrity issues in Finland should be organised by 1/2014
  - Public powers to integrity office?
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Statutes, rules, codes and regulations of Federations

- Valo:
  - “strengthen the ethic basis of sports member have to comply ethic code
  - Integrity issues included ethical code (Fair Play) renewal this autumn
  - Non compliance?
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Statutes, rules, codes and regulations of Federations

- **Federations:**
  - Most federations have their own rules concerning integrity
    - Betting on own event forbidden
    - Competition rules or disciplinary code
    - Clubs, individuals (competition stakeholders) can be sanctioned
    - Some federations sanction also non reporting of suspicious proposals and approaches
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EWS

- FAF, close cooperation with Veikkaus and authorities

Recommendations

- SLU 2011
  - Recommendations how to tackle match fixing
    - Preemptive measures
    - Sanctions
    - Cooperation
    - Communication
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Education

- Preseason infos (Players union, FAF)
- FIFPro Don´t fix it project, Finland involved

Platforms

- Ministry of Education and Culture Authorities, sport movement, betting company exchange of information
- Active participation on international level (EU, Council of Europe etc)
- Nordic Sport Federations has MF on agenda
- Nordic Gambling Authorities
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Future, what is needed?

- Penal code which enables sanctioning match fixing on lower divisions where clubs are not considered as businesses
- Raise awareness this does not happen in our family attitude must be changed
- Activity at all levels and forums both nationally and internationally
- Integrity coordination institutionalised national contact point with sufficient powers (integrity office)
- Commitment to tackle MF precondition for state funding
- Fight against MF should also be financed also from state budget
THANK YOU