PTG2017 - Integrity in esports -
IAN SMITH
The four most significant threats to esports integrity have been identified as…

- Cheating to win using software cheats
- Online attacks to slow or disable an opponent
- Match-fixing
- Doping

The easy ability to cheat used frequently can destroy a game – the solution is in the publishers’ hands and, on the whole, is implemented swiftly, ruthlessly and effectively.

The willingness to deliberately underperform – match or spot fixing to commit betting fraud – is poorly understood and only dealt with when exposed by third parties.
BETTING FRAUD

- Where there is a market there are people trying to manipulate it – the only question is whether they are succeeding or not...

- 92% of match-fixing is driven by betting fraud.
Total esports gambling handle through 2020 In US$ millions (000,000)

Source: Narus Advisors / Eilers & Krejcik Gaming
BETTING FRAUD CONTINUED

- Our participant demographic is perfect for gambling and corruption.
- A very high interest base in South East Asia, China & USA – the 3 biggest illegal gambling epicentres.

- As an industry, esports is highly vulnerable.
  - Games can survive match-fixing, but esports cannot...
HOW TO COMBAT MATCH-FIXING
THE FIGHT AGAINST MATCH-FIXING

- How do you detect match-fixing and what do you do when you find it?
  - 3rd party exposure (law-enforcement/media/whistle-blowing)
  - Sportradar FDS, Bet Genius & gambling industry alerts. 450 bookmakers – over 130 offering esports
- Proper regulations and procedures.
- Investigation
- Prosecution
- Deterrence – Commissioners Confidence
- Engagement with the licensed gambling industry (14 MOUs and 4 Regulators)
**How to deal with a match fixing approach**

**Experience tells us:**
- Match fixers will usually leave you alone if they see you as a hard target to manipulate early on.
- The moment you start accepting money or complying with their requests, you will find yourself trapped.
- Failing to report knowledge of an approach will likely allow the corruption to continue elsewhere.

**Recognise**
- When someone wants inside information or offers you money for no reason.

**Reject**
- Any direct approaches to fix games or offers of cash.

**Report**
- Any suspicious incidents, behaviour or interactions.
OTHER MEASURES

- Security – Player and Match Officials Area
- Physical presence of anti-corruption officials at venues and hotels
- Intelligence database and analysis
- Liaison & cooperation with other anti-corruption units and law-enforcement
- Alerts to Participants
- Warnings off of known corruptors
- Agents/Managers registration system
- Lobby for legislative regulation of gambling and seminars
- Good database of participant information
ESPORTS INTEGRITY COALITION
WHAT IS ESIC?

- Not for profit members association
- Primarily aimed at combatting match-fixing and betting fraud in esports
- Coalition of concerned industry stakeholders most affected by match-fixing and most able to do something about it.
- Overseen by the Integrity Commissioner
- Provides the Programme on behalf of the members.
  - Principles and Code of Ethics for members
  - Code of Conduct for players (optional – with a view to standardisation)
  - Anti-Corruption Code for participants
  - Anti-Doping Code for players
  - Independent Disciplinary Panel – worldwide experts
Anti-Corruption Code - Offences

- Covers all “Participants”
  - Match or spot fixing – including attempting to do so or trying to get others to do so
  - Betting on your own game or offering bets or encouraging betting
  - Misuse of Inside Information
  - Bribery of other Participants
  - Failure to disclose large gifts
  - Failure to disclose corrupt approaches
  - Failure to disclose suspicions or knowledge of corrupt acts
  - Failure to cooperate with or obstructing investigations or prosecutions
Anti-Corruption Code - Obligations

- Positive duty to report corrupt approaches or acts
  - report@esportsintegrity.com and +44 (0)7798 698201

- Positive obligation to cooperate with investigations and prosecutions
Anti-Corruption Code - Consequences

- Provisional Suspension
- **Corruption**: Ban for a minimum of 2 Events up to a lifetime
- **Betting**: 2 Event minimum up to 2 years maximum
- **Misuse of Inside Information**: no minimum up to 3 years maximum
- **General Offences**: no minimum up to 5 years maximum
- Loss of reputation
- Loss of job
- Loss of record/s
- Likely publisher ban
THANK YOU