





# Timeline

A selection of events inspiring the ClearingSport project

-  Cases
-  Foundation of ClearingSport
-  Governance
-  Good practice

**December 1998**

Salt Lake City Scandal: after revelations that the bid committee bribed IOC members to secure hosting of the 2002 Winter Olympics, the IOC expels ten members and introduce governance reforms.

**February 1999**

At a conference in Lausanne, the Olympic movement and governments agree on the creation of a World Anti-Doping Agency to set common anti-doping standards.

**April 2005**

The Council of Europe issues the first recommendations on governance in sport, emphasising democratic structures, ethics, accountability, and transparency.

**November 2005**

Delegates at Play the Game 2005 make a 'Statement for Integrity and Anti-Corruption in Sport'.

**July 2006**

In the anthology 'Korruption im Sport', German journalist Jens Weinreich proposes a 'World Ethics Commission of Sport'.

**March 2008**

In a Swiss court, former directors of sports marketing giant ISL confirm paying bribes worth around 100 million USD to FIFA and other sports officials.

**November 2008**

Paul Scotney, head of integrity at British Horseracing Authority suggests a WADA-style agency against betting-related corruption.

**October 2009**

Adoption of the 'Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of the Olympic and Sports Movement'.

**February 2011**

Honorary IOC member and IWF president Tamás Aján warns EU meeting that "corruption is everywhere in sport". Two years later, Aján's own corruption is exposed.

**September 2011**

In the sports committee of the German Bundestag, Play the Game calls for the establishment of a global anti-corruption body in sport.

**November 2011**

BBC Panorama and Andrew Jennings disclose a list of payments from ISL to sports leaders, naming three FIFA officials.

**January 2013**

Jean-Loup Chappelet and Michaël Mrkonjic from Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (IDHEAP) publish Basic Indicators for Better Governance in International Sport (BIBGIS).

**September 2014**

Council of Europe launches Macolin Convention against manipulation of sports competitions. Due to EU complications, the convention only enters into force in 2019.

**May 2015**

At the request of the US Department of Justice, the FBI, and the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation, Swiss police raids the FIFA Congress hotel in Zürich. Swiss police detains seven football leaders, and the FBI raises charges of racketeering and corruption eventually worth USD 200 mio. against more than 14 football leaders and associates.

**December 2015**

In a superseding indictment, the US Department of Justice returns a second indictment against 16 additional FIFA officials for racketeering, wire fraud, and money laundering conspiracies..

**May 2016**

Defected head of the Moscow anti-doping lab, Grigory Rodchenkov, tells the New York Times about a doping fraud scheme set up by the Russian state during the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

**September 2016**

Gymnasts accuse team doctor of US Gymnastics, Larry Nassar, of sexual abuse in what is to become the biggest scandal of its kind in history

**March 2017**

The Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) presents its first survey on the governance of 28 sports based on assisted self-evaluation.

**September 2017**

A number of coaches, sports agents, advisors, and a major shoe company executive are indicted for various fraud and corruption schemes related to college basketball in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

**April 2018**

Norwegian president of the International Biathlon Union (IBU), Anders Besseberg, steps down following a police raid of headquarters and corruption allegations.

**November 2018**

Researchers and sports leaders from ten countries launch the National Sports Governance Observer tool..

**November 2018**

Former president of the Afghan Football Federation, Keramuudin Karim, accused of abuse by members of the Afghani women's national team.

**October 2019**

The International Biathlon Union (IBU) establishes the Biathlon Integrity Unit with operational independence in investigating and prosecuting violations of its Integrity Code.

**April 2020**

The US Department of Justice files another superseding indictment in the FIFA corruption investigation, this time charging further FIFA officials, global marketing entities/individuals, and global sports media companies and executives thereof. The charges include racketeering, money laundering, honest services wire fraud, tax fraud, and forfeiture.

**November 2020**

Haiti football president Yves-Jean Bart banned for life by FIFA after allegations of sexual abuse and harassment of young female players.

**September 2021**

Kuwaiti IOC member Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah is sentenced to 14 months in jail for forgery in a domestic political affair. An appeal leads to a two-year suspended jail sentence.

**February 2022**

At the Beijing Winter Olympics, 15-year-old Russian skater Kamila Valieva comes under immense pressure as sports authorities disagree on how to handle the revelation of her positive doping test.

**September 2022**

Member of the European Parliament, Viola von Cramon, presents report proposing a 'World Anti-Corruption Agency' in sport.

**May 2023**

Match-fixing in Brazil results in Congress-led investigations.

**December 2023**

Formula One boss Bernie Ecclestone receives a suspended sentence after admitting to tax fraud and accepting USD 800 mio. settlement.

**January 2024**

-CAS issues Kamila Valieva a four-year period of ineligibility, treating her case no differently from an adult athlete.

**April 2024**

Former IBU president Anders Besseberg receives a three-year prison sentence in Norway for aggravated corruption.

**May 2024**

The IOC issues a 15-year ban on Sheikh Al-Sabah for breach of ethics following a three-year ban in 2023 for meddling with Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) elections in favour of his brother.

**August 2024**

During the Paris Olympics, questions arise and investigation starts on an official of the governing organisation of Modern Pentathlon (UIPM).

**September 2024**

The Chinese Football Association bans 43 people for life over allegations of match-fixing, bribery, and other forms of corruption.

**November 2024**

South African Soccer Association (SAFA) president Danny Jordaan arrested on fraud and theft charges for using SAFA funds for his own benefit.

**January 2025**

China opens first national sports arbitration centre, taking a key step to strengthen the legal framework for resolving sports disputes and protecting athletes' rights.

**February 2025**

Tunisian authorities sentence Wadie Jary, former head of the Tunisian Football Federation (FTF), to four years in prison for corruption.

**July 1998**

Systemic doping unveiled at the Tour de France: French customs seize great quantities of doping products from cars of seigneurs.

**December 1999**

The IOC adopts a series of governance reforms in the wake of the Salt Lake City corruption scandal.

**February 2003**

Olympic federations and governments negotiate a World Anti-Doping Code in Copenhagen.

**October 2005**

UNESCO member states adopt Anti-Doping Convention to allow governments to adhere to WADA rules.

**November 2005**

Canadian journalist Declan Hill brings first international attention to match-fixing at the Play the Game 2005 conference in Copenhagen.

**September 2006**

At a UEFA and Council of Europe conference, Play the Game launches the idea of a global agency against sports corruption, targeting governance failures and criminal activity.

**April 2008**

Managing director of betting giant Betfair, Mark Davies, calls for a world integrity agency encompassing both drugs, betting, and any other form of corruption, in New Zealand newspaper the Sunday Star Times.

**September 2009**

The association of private online bookmakers, European Sports Security Association (ESSA), calls for an international agency against corruption in sport.

**October 2010**

Right before the selection of FIFA World Cup hosts for 2018 and 2022, The Sunday Times reveals corruption in the process and two FIFA ExCO members are suspended.

**February 2011**

WADA's director general David Howman calls for a 'World Sports Integrity Agency' at the EU Sport Forum in Budapest.

**October 2011**

Delegates at Play the Game 2011 issue 'Cologne Consensus' calling for the IOC to organise a global conference and create a global code for governance in sport.

**January 2012**

Experts from across Europe embark on Action for Good Governance in International Sports Organisations (AGGIS) with EU support.

**May 2013**

Journalist Grit Hartmann exposes widespread corruption under International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) president Tamás Aján who is nevertheless reelected.

**December 2014**

Whistleblowers Yuliya and Vitaly Stepanov reveal an international doping fraud scheme in a documentary by German broadcaster ARD involving top officials from IAAF (now: World Athletics) and Russian athletics.

**November 2015**

Arnout Geeraert (then KU Leuven) presents the first independent Sports Governance Observer survey at Play the Game 2015.

**February 2016**

Responding to years of scandal, FIFA introduces major governance reforms.

**May 2016**

British prime minister David Cameron convenes an international anti-corruption summit focusing also on sport which eventually leads to the formation of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport (IPACS).

**October 2016**

In response to the Russian-international doping scandal, WADA launches an Intelligence & Investigations service with a mandate for independent operations

**April 2017**

World Athletics is the first federation to introduce an independent integrity unit (AIU).

**January 2018**

Larry Nassar, former team doctor of US Gymnastics and employee at Michigan State University, is sentenced to 175 years in prison for sexual abuse of athletes.

**June 2018**

Ghana Football Association officials allegedly caught on film demanding kickbacks.

**November 2018**

In 2018 and 2019, a revised version of the International Sports Governance Observer tool updates the benchmarking of 11 Olympic federations.

**December 2018**

G20 acknowledges corruption in sport as an emerging risk area in the 2019-2021 G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) Action Plan.

**April 2020**

Following revelations by Grit Hartmann and German ARD TV about doping fraud and corruption at the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), president Tamás Aján steps down after 44 years in top positions.

**September 2020**

Former International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) president Lamine Diack sentenced to four years in prison and fined €500,000 for corruption and breach of trust.

**October 2020**

US bill passed that allows Congress to dissolve the The United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) Board of Directors to protect athletes.

**December 2020**

After years of legal dispute, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) decides to cut WADA's international ban on Russian sport down from four to two years.

**December 2021**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launches its first Global Report on Corruption in Sport calling for a unified international response to corrupt behaviour.

**June 2022**

Sports integrity leaders gathered at Play the Game 2022 encourage the entity to explore the viability of an international agency against all forms of corruption in sport.

**February 2023**

CAS upholds Yves Jean-Bart's appeal against the decision of the FIFA Ethics Committee to ban him for life.

**June 2023**

Almost 200 experts call for establishing an international anti-corruption agency in sport in a survey under Play the Game's ClearingSport project.

**December 2023**

Play the Game forms an informal Advisory Group for ClearingSport with 20 industry experts chaired by Chiel Warners.

**February 2024**

The ClearingSport project is debated by dozens of key stakeholders during Play the Game 2024 in Trondheim.

**April 2024**

German broadcaster ARD reveals that WADA has kept 23 positive doping cases among Chinese swimmers secret, unleashing new tensions in global anti-doping.

**June 2024**

Japanese interpreter of baseball star pleads guilty to bank fraud and tax offenses as part of wider illegal gambling organisation.

**September 2024**

Manchester City Football Club begins hearings on alleged breaches concerning financial fair play.

**October 2024**

Australian Rules Football player Joel Smith banned for four years after both anti-doping violations and trafficking in cocaine.

**December 2024**

Charges brought against advertising giant Dentsu, its executive Haruyuki Takahashi, and other Japanese companies for bid-rigging and other corruption related offenses.

**February 2025**

Former Spanish FA president, Luis Rubiales, is convicted of sexual assault after forcing a kiss on a player during the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup medal ceremony.