

TIMELINE

Examples of scandals

1998

July

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



1998

December

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.

2008

March

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

2010

October

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

2014

December

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.



2015

May

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 200 million USD against more than 14 football leaders and associates.



2016

May

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.



2016

September

Gymnasts accuse team doctor of US Gymnastics, Larry Nassar, of sexual abuse. In January 2018, he is sentenced to 175 years in prison for sexual abuse of athletes.

2017

September

Various 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.

2018

June

Ghana Football Association officials allegedly caught on film demanding kickbacks.

2018

November

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



2020

September

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.

2021

September

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.



2020

April

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.

2020

November

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

2023

February

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) upholds Yves Jean-Bart's appeal against the decision of the FIFA Ethics Committee to ban him for life.

2023

May

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

2023

August

During the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup medal presentation ceremony, Spanish FA president Luis Rubiales sexually assaults midfielder Jenni Hermoso.



2023

December

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

2024

April

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



2024

April

Former International Biathlon Union (IBU) president Anders Besseberg receives a three-year prison sentence in Norway for aggravated corruption.

2024

June

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

2024

August

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



2024

September

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

2024

October

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

2024

November

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



2024

December

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

2025

February

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



2025

February

The Spanish FA president, Luis Rubiales, is convicted of sexual assault.