

EP SM

EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTION OF SPORTING-RELATED MATCH-FIXING

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



RESULTS SWITZERLAND

Coordinator



Project partner





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1 INTRODUCTION

Match-fixing is not always about betting on results or events in or during the match. Matches are also ‘fixed’ and results are affected through other ways. It may cross paths of every athlete, coaches, board member or referees in competitive sport, on both the amateur and elite level. This phenomenon is called non-betting-related match-fixing or ‘sporting-related match-fixing’ and does not have to be related to betting.

EPOSM

Sporting-related match-fixing is subject of study in the EPOSM project and collaborative partnership. EPOSM stands for Evidence-based Prevention Of Sporting-related Match-fixing, and is a partnership between academic and non-academic parties. The EPOSM project is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union and studies sporting-related match-fixing in different sport disciplines across Europe.

EPOSM conducts applied academic research in collaboration with many national sport organizations and governmental bodies in the following seven countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The project has started in 2020 and takes until 2022. EPOSM stands for “raising knowledge, awareness and moral judgment about sporting-related match-fixing among people involved in sport, by using an evidence-based approach which can inspire others.” The project aims to:

- Raise awareness about the prevalence of sporting-related match-fixing;
- Stimulate moral judgment regarding the fact that sporting-related match-fixing is wrong, as it threatens the credibility and attractiveness of sport;
- Share and transfer knowledge on sporting-related match-fixing through the organization of a training procedure.

Partners

The project is coordinated by Ghent University, and Lausanne University is one of the academic partners. Lausanne University was responsible for the data collection and knowledge dissemination in Switzerland. Other project partners include Utrecht University, the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS), Play Fair Code, Croatian Olympic Committee, Loughborough University, Panathlon International, International Centre Ethics in Sport (ICES), and Counter Sport Corruption Foundation for Sport Integrity (CSCF). The Council of Europe is an associated partner organization of the EPOSM project.

EPOSM study in Switzerland

In Switzerland, the project focuses on football, tennis, and basketball. In 2020 an online survey was conducted among respondents in these three sport disciplines.

Survey results and next steps

This document shows the first results of the survey among actors involved in football, tennis, basketball and other sports in Switzerland. On the basis of these results, Lausanne University will develop a concrete action plan for the three sport disciplines. This action plan will serve as roadmaps toward raising knowledge, awareness and moral judgment on sporting-related match-fixing in Switzerland and will be implemented during one workshop with relevant actors in Swiss football, tennis, and basketball.



2 DATA COLLECTION METHOD

2.1 Sampling method

The questionnaire was disseminated mainly in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, and on a smaller scale in the German-speaking part of Switzerland.

Making contact with sporting people, clubs and federations, we prioritise professional members working in the sports sectors (such as professional coaches, athletes, referees, medical team of official members of national or international sports federation). The UNIL team also extended the dissemination of the questionnaire to amateurs in order to reach a broad representation of the sport population (both women and men) practicing sports or being involved in the sport sector.

Three disciplines have been targeted mainly: football, tennis and basketball. They were selected because they are popular disciplines in Switzerland, covering extensive amateur and professional, women and men activity. These three disciplines have also been concerned by the match-fixing phenomenon, making them ideal target sports for the questionnaires.

In total, 1215 people started the survey and 202 completed the questionnaire (response rate = 16,6%). We decided to retain the partially completed questionnaires that were completed for 37,5% or more, as questionnaires with less answers had no substantial value. Subsequently, we checked the main sport disciplines of the respondents. When there was a missing value for the question examining the main sport discipline, the respondent was removed from the sample, since the main sport discipline is vital information. Lastly, we checked the age of the respondents. All respondents under the age of 18 were removed from the sample, in conformity with institutional ethics standards.

A final sample of 206 respondents was obtained.

2.2 Contact method

The questionnaire was disseminated through two main channels: by emails and via social media (including LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram). Eight informational contents were posted on LinkedIn over a four-month period. These posts included explanatory and graphic content such as flyers (with a QR code, referring directly to the questionnaire) and a video. Facebook posts were posted either on public pages (including the official UNIL sport page, official sports press pages) or through one researcher's Facebook account. In addition, personal messages were also sent to the Facebook accounts of sports federations, Facebook accounts of sports journalists, official club accounts and personal accounts of athletes. One Instagram account was used to post informative content about the study.

Target groups were also contacted via their personal or institutional email addresses. This technique has been used both for the UNIL professional network and for people / institutions external to their professional network. Descriptive information on the project and a leaflet were attached to these emails. When the UNIL team could not contact a specific person / institution by e-mail, they reached them directly by phone.



2.3 Reminders

No reminders have been sent by emails. However, recurrent posts were posted on social media to reach as many sporting people as possible.

3 DATA ANALYSIS

Data analysis was performed with SPSS 24 software. Descriptive statistics were used to describe the respondents' characteristics (section 4), the prevalence of match-fixing (section 6), the reporting of match-fixing suspicions and experiences (section 7), and the preventive measures against match-fixing in sport clubs (section 8). Additionally, one-way multivariate analyses of variance (MANOVAs, followed by univariate analyses) were used to examine the differences between the three sport disciplines (football, tennis, and basketball) regarding several statements about match-fixing. Moreover, the number of match-fixing cases per sport discipline in the total sample of the project (sample of all seven countries together) was added to section 6.2.1, to compare the Swiss prevalence figures of the three sport disciplines with the figures of the total sample.

4 RESPONDENTS' CHARACTERISTICS

Concerning respondents' characteristics (Table 1), more than a half of them plays football and almost 75% is male. The mean age is 32,3, and most of participants are athletes (69,9%) or referees (15%), mainly playing at amateur level (68,4%), in national or local competitions (around 40% for each competition types).

	Total (n = 206)	Football (n = 111)	Tennis (n = 21)	Basketball (n = 25)	Other (n = 49)
Language					
German	20,9%	25,2%	9,5%	0,0%	26,5%
French	73,8%	69,4%	81,0%	92,0%	71,4%
English	5,3%	5,4%	9,5%	8,0%	2,0%
Gender					
Man	74,3%	90,1%	42,9%	36,0%	71,4%
Woman	24,8%	9,9%	57,1%	56,0%	28,6%
Other	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
I prefer not to say	1,0%	0,0%	0,0%	8,0%	0,0%
Age: M (SD)*	32,3 (10,9)	33,8 (10,5)	28,8 (8,1)	29,4 (10,6)	31,8 (12,5)
How long have you been involved in this sport (in years)? M (SD)*	18,6 (10,1)	20,0 (9,4)	16,4 (8,8)	18,0 (11,9)	16,6 (10,9)
How are (were) you mainly related to this sport?					
Athlete	69,9%	63,1%	90,5%	76,0%	73,5%
Coach / Trainer / Assistant coach	9,7%	9,9%	9,5%	16,0%	6,1%



Medical staff	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Referee / (Video) Assistant Referee / (Fourth) official / Jury member	15,0%	20,7%	0,0%	0,0%	16,3%
Board member / Assembly member / Manager of a sport club	3,4%	5,4%	0,0%	0,0%	2,0%
Other	1,9%	0,9%	0,0%	8,0%	2,0%
At what level are (were) you mainly involved?					
Professional	12,6%	18,0%	4,8%	12,0%	4,1%
Semi-professional	18,9%	19,8%	4,8%	20,0%	22,4%
Amateur	68,4%	62,2%	90,5%	68,0%	73,5%
At what playing level are (were) you mainly involved?					
International	10,2%	9,9%	4,8%	12,0%	12,2%
National	41,7%	39,6%	14,3%	56,0%	51,0%
Local	42,7%	47,7%	61,9%	32,0%	28,6%
Leisure activity / Recreational	5,3%	2,7%	19,0%	0,0%	8,2%

Table 1: Overview of the respondents' characteristics (n = 206)

*M = mean, SD = standard deviation

5 STATEMENTS

Respondents were asked to answer a number of statements about match-fixing on a seven-point Likert scale, whereby “1” means “strongly disagree,” and “7” means “strongly agree.”

	“Match-fixing is a real problem in my sport discipline in Switzerland.”	“I could be approached myself to fix a match. (regardless of whether or not you would agree to it)”
Sport discipline	(M ± SD)	(M ± SD)
Football (n = 111)	3,2 ± 1,7	2,7 ± 1,7
Tennis (n = 21)	3,1 ± 1,3	1,8 ± 1,3
Basketball (n = 25)	2,0 ± 1,2	1,8 ± 1,5

Table 2: Match-fixing: its seriousness, and risks (n = 157)

M = mean, SD = standard deviation

A significant difference is noticed between the three sport disciplines regarding the statements (a) “Match-fixing is a real problem in my sport discipline in Switzerland,” and (b) “I could be approached myself to fix a match. (regardless of whether or not you would agree to it)” (one-way MANOVA: Wilks’ $\lambda = .885$, $F(4, 306) = 4.840$, $p = .001$, $\eta_p^2 = .059$). As shown in the first column of Table 2, a significant difference is noticed between the sport disciplines regarding the belief that their sport is compromised



by match-fixing (univariate effect: $F(2, 154) = 6.564, p = .002, \eta_p^2 = .079$). People involved in basketball assess the risk of match-fixing in their sport lower than do the actors in football (Tukey’s honestly significant difference test [Tukey’s HSD] $p = .001$) and tennis (Tukey’s HSD $p < .05$). Additionally, no significant difference was noticed between the people involved in football and tennis regarding the belief that match-fixing is a problem in their sport discipline (Tukey’s HSD $p > .10$).

As shown in the second column of Table 2, a significant difference is noticed between the sport disciplines regarding the estimation of whether they could be approached themselves for a match-fixing proposal (univariate effect: $F(2, 154) = 4.076, p < .05, \eta_p^2 = .050$). There is a trend to a significant difference between the people involved in football, and the people involved in tennis (Tukey’s HSD $.10 > p > .05$) and basketball (Tukey’s HSD $.10 > p > .05$). No significant difference was found between those involved in tennis and basketball regarding the estimation of whether they could be approached themselves for a match-fixing proposal (Tukey’s HSD $p > .10$).

	“I feel somewhat uncomfortable when I hear that someone in my sporting environment has been involved in sporting-related match-fixing . (e.g. to avoid relegation of his / her team)”	“I feel somewhat uncomfortable when I hear that someone in my sporting environment has been involved in betting-related match-fixing .”
Sport discipline	(M ± SD)	(M ± SD)
Football (n = 111)	6,1 ± 1,2	6,1 ± 1,1
Tennis (n = 21)	6,0 ± 1,0	5,7 ± 1,5
Basketball (n = 25)	6,1 ± 1,4	6,4 ± 0,7

Table 3: Uncomfortable feelings about others who have been involved in match-fixing (n = 157)

M = mean, SD = standard deviation

No significant difference is noticed between the three sport disciplines regarding the statements (a) “I feel somewhat uncomfortable when I hear that someone in my sporting environment has been involved in sporting-related match-fixing. (e.g. to avoid relegation of his / her team),” and (b) “I feel somewhat uncomfortable when I hear that someone in my sporting environment has been involved in betting-related match-fixing” (one-way MANOVA: Wilks’ $\lambda = .964, F(4, 306) = 1.424, p > .10, \eta_p^2 = .018$). As shown in the first column of Table 3, no significant difference is noticed between the sport disciplines regarding uncomfortable feelings when hearing about others that have been involved in sporting-related match-fixing (univariate effect: $F(2, 154) = .056, p > .10, \eta_p^2 = .001$).

Likewise, no significant difference is noticed between the sport disciplines regarding uncomfortable feelings when hearing about others that have been involved in betting-related match-fixing (univariate effect: $F(2, 154) = 2.293, p > .10, \eta_p^2 = .029$) (second column of Table 3).



	“I feel somewhat uncomfortable when I hear that someone has not been punished for engaging in sporting-related match-fixing. ”	“I feel somewhat uncomfortable when I hear that someone has not been punished for engaging in betting-related match-fixing. ”
Sport discipline	(M ± SD)	(M ± SD)
Football (n = 111)	6,0 ± 1,3	5,9 ± 1,2
Tennis (n = 21)	6,2 ± 0,9	6,0 ± 1,1
Basketball (n = 25)	6,2 ± 1,2	6,4 ± 0,9

Table 4: Uncomfortable feelings about others who have been involved in match-fixing (n = 157)

M = mean, SD = standard deviation

No significant difference is noticed between the three sport disciplines regarding the statements (a) “I feel somewhat uncomfortable when I hear that someone has not been punished for engaging in sporting-related match-fixing,” and (b) “I feel somewhat uncomfortable when I hear that someone has not been punished for engaging in betting-related match-fixing” (one-way MANOVA: Wilks’ $\lambda = .977$, $F(4, 306) = .885$, $p > .10$, $\eta_p^2 = .011$). As shown in the first column of Table 4, no significant difference is noticed between the sport disciplines regarding uncomfortable feelings when hearing about others who have not been punished for engaging in sporting-related match-fixing (univariate effect: $F(2, 154) = .781$, $p > .10$, $\eta_p^2 = .010$). Likewise, no significant difference is noticed between the sport disciplines regarding uncomfortable feelings when hearing about others who have not been punished for engaging in betting-related match-fixing (univariate effect: $F(2, 154) = 1.363$, $p > .10$, $\eta_p^2 = .017$) (second column of Table 4).

	“Participating in match-fixing to avoid relegation of my team, is acceptable.”	“Participating in match-fixing to make money through betting , is acceptable.”
Sport discipline	(M ± SD)	(M ± SD)
Football (n = 111)	1,6 ± 1,2	1,3 ± 0,9
Tennis (n = 21)	1,4 ± 0,7	1,2 ± 0,5
Basketball (n = 25)	1,6 ± 1,0	1,1 ± 0,3

Table 5: Acceptability of match-fixing (n = 157)

M = mean, SD = standard deviation

No significant difference is noticed between the three sport disciplines regarding the statements (a) “Participating in match-fixing to avoid relegation of my team, is acceptable,” and (b) “Participating in match-fixing to make money through betting, is acceptable” (one-way MANOVA: Wilks’ $\lambda = .974$, $F(4, 306) = 1.012$, $p > .10$, $\eta_p^2 = .013$). As shown in the first column of Table 5, no significant difference is noticed between the sport disciplines regarding the acceptability of match-fixing to avoid relegation of his / her team (univariate effect: $F(2, 154) = .154$, $p > .10$, $\eta_p^2 = .002$). As shown in the second column of Table 5, no significant difference is noticed between the sport disciplines regarding the acceptability of match-fixing to make money through the betting market (univariate effect: $F(2, 154) = 1.013$, $p > .10$, $\eta_p^2 = .013$).



To end the statements section, respondents were asked to answer two statements about gambling and betting. **The statements in Table 6 give an indication about the respondents' gambling and betting experiences BUT are not related to the prevalence of match-fixing.**

Sport discipline	"I gambled during the past year."		"I have already bet on a match in which I was personally involved."	
	True	False	True	False
Football (n = 111)	20,7%	79,3%	3,6%	96,4%
Tennis (n = 21)	0,0%	100%	0,0%	100%
Basketball (n = 25)	4,0%	96,0%	0,0%	100%

Table 6: Two statements about gambling and betting (n=157)

6 PREVALENCE OF MATCH-FIXING

6.1 Do you personally know anyone who has been approached to fix a game/match?

Respondents were asked whether they personally knew anyone who has been approached to fix a game / match. As shown in Table 7, **29 respondents** indicated that they personally knew one or more persons who had been approached to fix a game / match.

	"Do you personally know anyone who has been approached to fix a game / match?"
Yes, I know one person	19
Yes, I know two persons	4
Yes, I know three or more persons	6
No	174

Table 7: Respondents who personally knew someone who had been approached for match-fixing (n = 203)

When they thought of the approached person they knew best, they indicated that – mainly – the approached person was a man, playing football as an athlete and that he was approached by a coach/trainer/assistant coach or by bettors/gamblers (Figures 1-5).

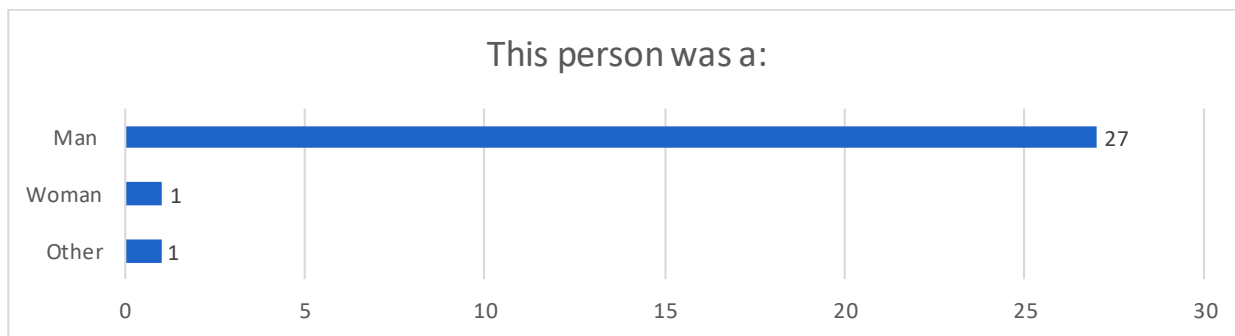


Figure 1: Gender of the approached person they knew best (n = 29)

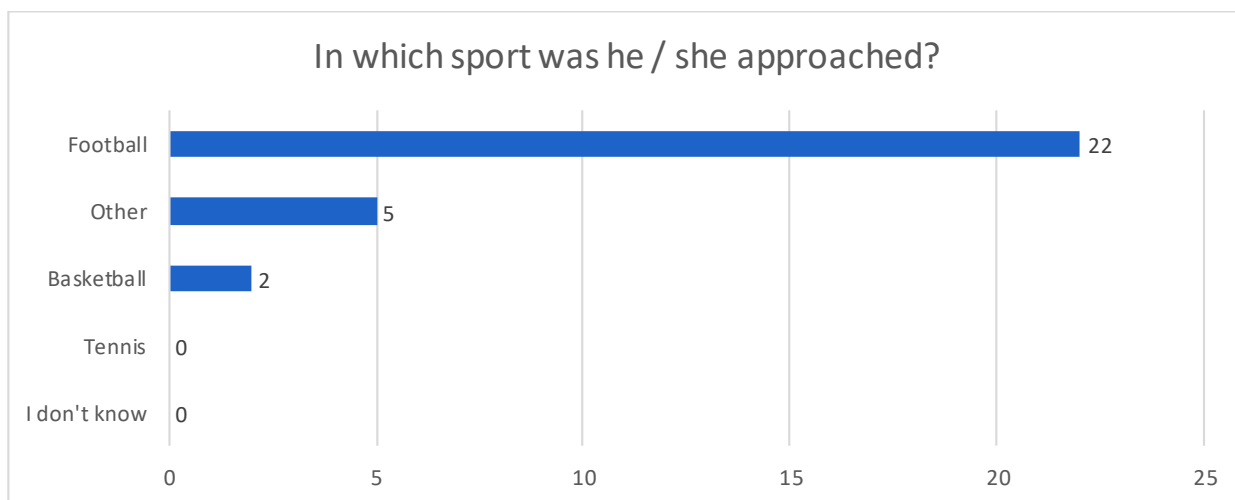


Figure 2: Sport discipline of the approached person they knew best (n= 29)

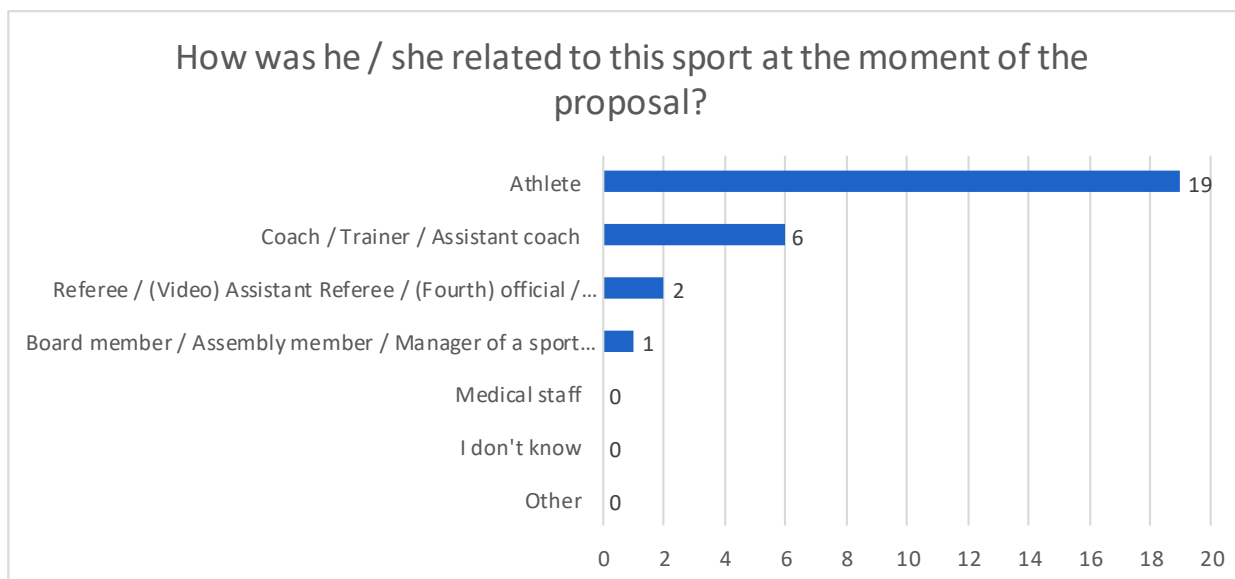


Figure 3: Way of involvement of the approached person they knew best (n =28)

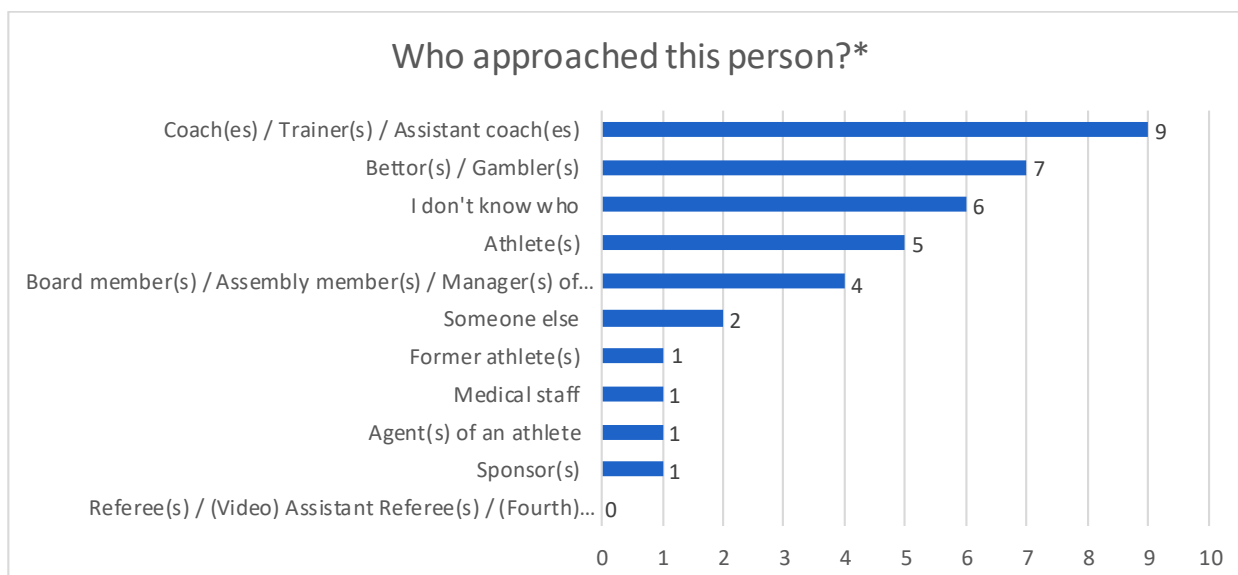


Figure 4: The people who approached the person they knew best (n = 29)

*The sum of the figures exceeds 29, because multiple answers were possible to the question.

6.2 Have you yourself ever been approached to fix a game / match?

6.2.1 Match-fixing cases in general

Respondents were asked whether they had already been approached personally for a match-fixing proposal. Table 8 depicts an overview of the number of match-fixing cases, reported by the respondents in the questionnaire.

Sport discipline	"Have you yourself ever been approached to fix a game / match?"	
	No	Yes
Football (n = 109)	104	5 (4,6%)
Tennis (n = 21)	21	0 (0,0%)
Basketball (n = 25)	24	1 (4,0%)
Other (n = 48)	45	3 (6,3%)

Table 8: Cases of having been approached themselves in the Swiss sample (n = 203)

To get a better understanding of the abovementioned figures, we can compare the Swiss figures with the number of match-fixing cases per sport discipline in the total sample (see Table 9).



	“Have you yourself ever been approached to fix a game / match?”
Sport discipline	Yes
Football (n = 2944)	278 (9,4%)
Tennis (n = 745)	64 (8,6%)
Basketball (n = 261)	16 (6,1%)

Table 9: Match-fixing cases per sport discipline in the total sample (n = 3950)

Further details about the Swiss match-fixing cases, show that four respondents indicated that they had only been approached once. At the moment of their **only** approach (n = 4), they were 20,8 years old on average (standard deviation 4,3).

Additionally, two respondents indicated that they had been approached two to three times to fix a match, and three persons indicated that they had been approached more than 3 times to fix a match. The average age of the first time (n = 5) they were approached to fix a match was 18,4 years old (standard deviation 3,8). The average age of the **last time** (n = 5) they were approached to fix a match was 32,2 years old (standard deviation 11,2).

Considering the heterogeneity and limited size of the sample, an explicit comparison between the sport disciplines is difficult to conduct. Social desirability in the respondents’ answers also has to be taken into account. In any case, the numbers suggest that match manipulation does exist within the Swiss sporting context.

6.2.2 Betting- and non-betting-related match-fixing cases

Regarding the **last (or only) time** they were approached to fix a match, one respondent revealed that he was only approached for a betting-related proposal (see Table 10). On the other hand, 7 respondents indicated that they were only approached for a non-betting-related proposal. This can be explained by the fact that most respondents participate in competitions that may not be proposed on the betting market, be it the legal market in Switzerland or the illegal market abroad. Furthermore, only one respondent reported that he was approached for another motive.

	Total (n = 9)
What was the motive of the people who approached you?	
Only betting-related match-fixing	1
Both betting- and non-betting-related match-fixing	0
Only non-betting-related match-fixing	7
Both non-betting-related and “other motive”	0
Other motive*	1
I don't know	0

Table 4: Motive of the match-fixing cases (n = 9)

*The exact “other motive” could not be identified due to a software bug.



6.2.2.1 Only non-betting-related (or sporting-related) proposals

A first person (gender is not specified to ensure confidentiality) involved in football, was involved as a coach, trainer, or assistant coach on an amateur and local level, at the moment of the proposal. (S)he indicated that (s)he was approached by other coach(es), trainer(s), or assistant coach(es), who were affiliated with the opponent. Moreover, (s)he revealed that they made a proposal to prevent relegation of their team, and that they tried to influence the outcome of the game / match (who wins / loses). Furthermore, (s)he indicated that the proposal took place in Switzerland, and that (s)he was offered between 100 and 500 CHF to fix the match. In addition, (s)he was promised a “team meal.” (S)he stated that (s)he was not threatened or pressured to fix, and eventually did not consent to the proposal.

A second person involved in football, was involved as a professional athlete on a national level, at the moment of the proposal. (S)he indicated that (s)he was approached by athlete(s) from her / his own club / team. The motive of the proposal was to prevent relegation of a specific club, and to determine who the next-round opponent would be. As such, (s)he stated that they tried to influence the outcome of the game / match (who wins / loses), and that they expected a deliberate underperformance. Furthermore, (s)he revealed that the proposal took place in Switzerland, that (s)he was offered more than 5000 CHF, and a luxury watch. In addition, (s)he stated that (s)he was threatened or pressured to fix the match. Eventually, (s)he consented to the proposal, because (1) (s)he experienced financial difficulties at that time, (2) (s)he was pressured by those who approached her / him, and (3) (s)he was pressured by her / his own team.

The third person involved in football, was involved as a semi-professional athlete on a local level, at the moment of the proposal. (S)he indicated that (s)he was approached by athlete(s) who were affiliated with the opponent. The motive of the proposal was to enable a specific club to win the championship. As such, (s)he stated that they tried to influence the outcome of the match (who wins / loses), and that they expected a deliberate underperformance. Furthermore, (s)he revealed that the proposal took place in Switzerland, and that (s)he was not offered money. However, they offered her / him “a dinner.” (S)he was not threatened or pressured, and eventually (s)he did not consent to the proposal.

The fourth person involved in football, was involved as an amateur athlete on a local level, at the moment of the proposal. (S)he indicated that (s)he was approached by coach(es), trainer(s), or assistant coach(es) from her / his own club / team. The motive of the proposal was to prevent relegation of a specific club. Moreover, (s)he indicated that the instigators tried to influence the outcome of the match (who wins / loses), and that they expected a deliberate underperformance. Additionally, (s)he stated that the proposal took place in Switzerland, and that (s)he was not offered money or other material inducements. Furthermore, (s)he was not threatened or pressured to fix, and eventually did not consent to the proposal.

The person involved in basketball, was involved as a referee, assistant referee, official, or jury member on a semi-professional and national level, at the moment of the proposal. (S)he indicated that (s)he was approached by coach(es), trainer(s), or assistant coach(es) who were affiliated with (one of) the opponents. The motive of the proposal was to prevent relegation of a specific club or player, and to determine who the next-round opponent would be. Moreover, (s)he indicated that the instigators tried to influence the outcome (who wins / loses) and the exact result of the match. Additionally, (s)he stated that these people tried to make happen specific events during the match, and that they tried to manipulate personal information. Furthermore, (s)he indicated that the proposal took place in Switzerland, that (s)he was offered less than 100 CHF, but no other material inducements. However,



(s)he admitted that (s)he was threatened or pressured to fix. Eventually, (s)he did not consent to the proposal.

The person involved in ice hockey, was involved as a referee, assistant referee, or official on an amateur and local level, at the moment of the proposal. (S)he indicated that (s)he was approached by board member(s), assembly member(s), or manager(s) of a sport club who were affiliated with (one of) the opponents. The motive of the proposal was to prevent relegation of a specific club or player, and to make the competition or tournament more exciting. (S)he indicated that they tried to influence “other things,” than the outcome, the exact result or specific events during the match. However, what they exactly tried to influence, was not specified, due to a software bug. Additionally, (s)he revealed that the proposal took place in Switzerland, that (s)he was not offered money or other material inducements, and that (s)he was not threatened or pressured to fix. Eventually, (s)he did not consent to the proposal.

The person involved in fencing, was involved as a semi-professional athlete on an international level, at the moment of the proposal. (S)he indicated that (s)he was approached by athlete(s) who were affiliated with the opponent. The motive of the proposal was to prevent relegation of a specific club or athlete. Additionally, (s)he indicated that the instigator(s) tried to influence the outcome (who wins / loses) and the exact result of the game / match. As such, the instigators expected a deliberate underperformance. Furthermore, (s)he revealed that the proposal took place in Switzerland, that (s)he was not offered money or other material inducements. In addition, (s)he indicated that (s)he was not threatened or pressured to fix. Eventually, (s)he consented to the proposal for “some other reason.” However, the exact “other reason” could not be specified, due to a software bug.

6.2.2.2 Only betting-related proposals

Only one respondent revealed that (s)he was approached for a betting-related match-fixing proposal. At the moment of the proposal, (s)he was involved as a semi-professional athlete on a national level in football. (S)he indicated that (s)he was approached by bettor(s) / gambler(s) who were affiliated with her / his own club / team. Moreover, (s)he indicated that they tried to influence specific events during the game / match. Additionally, (s)he stated that the proposal took place in Switzerland, and that (s)he was offered between 100 and 500 CHF. Furthermore, (s)he indicated that no other material inducements were offered, and that (s)he was not threatened or pressured to fix. Eventually, (s)he consented to the proposal out of sympathy for the person who made the proposal.



7 REPORTING SUSPICIONS OR EXPERIENCES OF MATCH-FIXING

Taking into account the figures of sections 6.1 and 6.2, Figure 5 depicts an overview of the (proposed) match-fixing incidents.

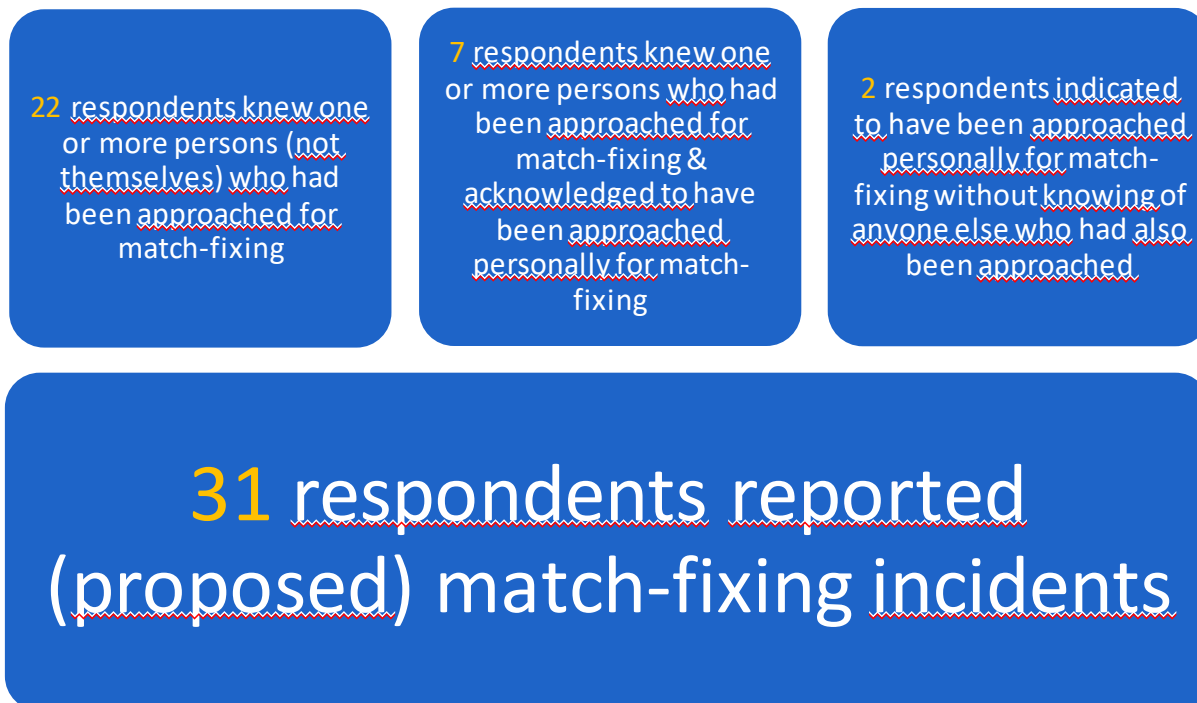


Figure 5: (Proposed) match-fixing incidents

Of the **31** respondents who indicated (proposed) match-fixing incidents, **22** respondents (71,0%) had never reported their suspicions or experiences of match-fixing to anyone.

On the other hand, **9** respondents (29,0%) had reported their suspicions or experiences of match-fixing to someone (see Figure 6).

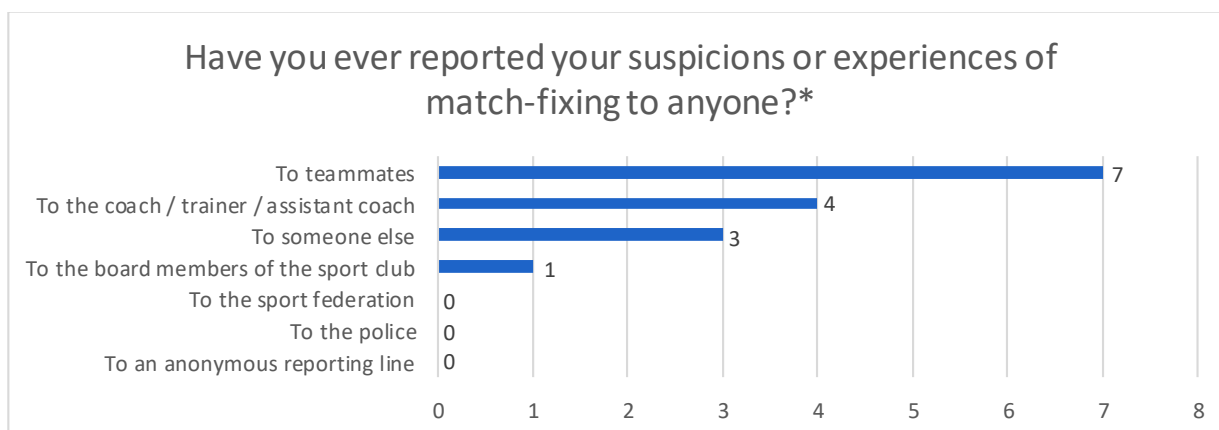


Figure 6: Reporting suspicions or experiences of match-fixing to anyone (n = 9)

*The sum of the figures exceeds 9, because multiple answers were possible to the question.



8 MATCH-FIXING PREVENTION IN SPORT CLUBS

At the end of the questionnaire, the respondents were asked whether their sport club pays attention to match-fixing or not. Of the **129** respondents who indicated that they were still involved in a sport club, **34** respondents (26,4%) indicated that their sport club does not pay attention to match-fixing and **46** respondents (35,7%) indicated that they don't know if their sport club pays attention to match-fixing.

On the other hand, **48** respondents (**37,2%**) indicated that their sport club pays attention to match-fixing. As shown in Figure 7, respondents mainly indicated that their sport club has a code of conduct / ethics with statements on match-fixing.

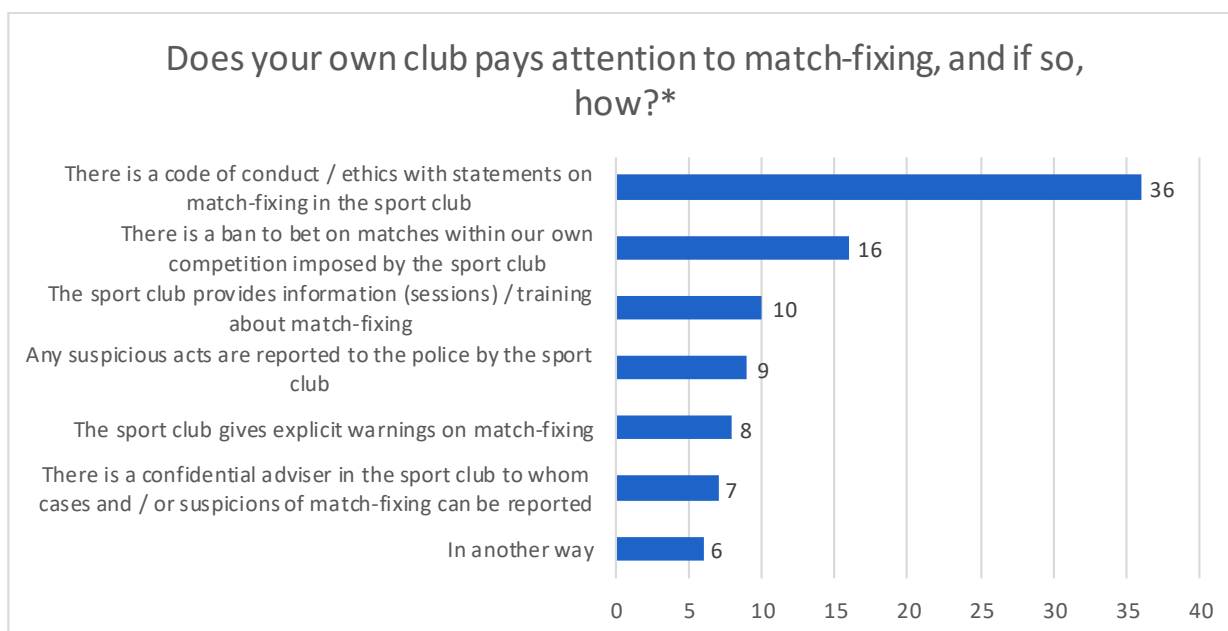


Figure 7: Match-fixing prevention in sport clubs (n= 48)

*The sum of the figures exceeds 48, because multiple answers were possible to the question.

9 CONCLUSION

As the instances of manipulations of sports competitions have been sweeping across countries and disciplines, Switzerland has not been spared by the phenomenon. Several football clubs have notably been investigated in relation to the so-called “Bochum match-fixing scandal”¹, although the Swiss Federal Criminal Court ultimately dismissed the proceedings, on the ground that in this case (betting-related), the Swiss Penal Code has not been violated².

¹ https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/football-rigging_swiss-centrally-implicated-in-match-fixing-scandal/34913078

² <https://www.sportsnet.ca/soccer/blatter-swiss-fa-aquittal-match-fixing/>



To the contrary of betting, sporting-related forms of manipulation have attracted less mediatic and scientific interest, although they may be prevalent within sporting contexts. Hence, the dissemination of the questionnaires in Swiss sports. It aimed at better understanding the reality of manipulation at local level. Although the sample size and representativity is limited, three major conclusions can be drawn from this research.

The first one is the undeniability of the existence of competition manipulation in Switzerland. Although this should not come as a surprise, to our knowledge it is the first time that the prevalence of match-fixing is measured and documented in the country. More than 15% of the respondents either personally know someone who has been approached by a match-fixer or have been personally approached. Given the fact that the vast majority of the respondents are involved at amateur, if not local, level, and given the potential social desirability trends in the responses, it can be considered an important proportion. In particular, football and tennis respondents acknowledge that manipulation has become an important threat for the integrity of their discipline. The results of this study do not reflect the Swiss propensity of sporting people that have been (directly or non-directly) impacted by match-fixing. Still, the results remain non neglectable and invite Swiss sport governing bodies, public or private, to take the measure of the manipulation phenomenon, and react accordingly to protect the integrity of their competitions.

The second conclusion regards the nature of sports manipulation in Switzerland. As the majority of the respondents operate at amateur level, where competitions are less likely to appear on the betting markets, the threat of betting-related manipulation has logically not been highlighted by the findings. Another inquiry focusing on the professional level is needed to assess the risks of betting-related corruption. The findings still underline the reality of sporting-related manipulation, particularly with end-of-seasons arrangements for teams willing to avoid relegation or qualify for the upper level of competition. The manipulation approaches emanate from individuals from the sport environment (teammates, coaches, officials, athletes). It indicates how corruption can not only be prevalent, it can also be integrated in the local norms. The findings therefore underline the internal, or consubstantial, nature of sporting-related corruption, in contrast with traditional understandings of corruption as an external threat. The risk with the social nature of sporting-related manipulation is that it tends to normalise manipulation in general. It can therefore explain how betting-related corruption can also be tolerated by some stakeholders at the top-level of sport. If manipulation for sporting reasons is frequent and more or less tolerated at amateur level, why would not it be possible to manipulate games and make profits from the betting market? Also, both types of manipulation should not be automatically separated, as both motives can interact in one manipulation occurrence.

The third conclusion regards the fight against manipulation. The potential inherent nature of sporting-related manipulation in some parts of Swiss sports makes it difficult for sport governing bodies to protect the integrity of competitions. Long-term ethical change is necessary to influence the values and normative framework within local clubs. Besides, the low rate of whistleblowing indicated by our findings suggest that sport stakeholders do not articulate strong moral reasonings when it comes to match-fixing, hereby confirming the lack of social stigma towards these manipulative agreements, or, if they do, that they do not trust that the existing reporting mechanisms and responsible authorities will appropriately handle the report. Long-term education and awareness-raising strategies are therefore warranted to change the mindset of sport participants when it comes to manipulation. Several steps have to be taken into account:

- Understand. Sport participants should know about the reality and dangers posed by all forms of manipulation and should know where to find more information or ask questions on the subject.



- Identification. Sports participants must understand the legal and moral dimension of sports manipulation. Any form of manipulation is prohibited by the disciplinary regulations. Stakeholders should also understand the moral ambiguity of manipulation when it emanates from their sport environment itself (club officials, teammates, etc.). They should be able to identify any form of bribery, even when it is insidious or immaterial.
- Responsibility. Sports participants should then understand that anyone of them have a moral obligation to protect sports integrity and therefore to refuse any kind of illegal offer, and to report it to the relevant authority or trustworthy person.
- Leadership. All sport participants that hold a position of authority (coach, staff, officials etc.) need to understand their responsibility in upholding the ethical values of sport, and their potential role in informing, providing advice and listening to their sport audience on any subject linked to manipulation, and any integrity issue.