



EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTION OF SPORTING-RELATED MATCH-FIXING

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



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN:
ROYAL BELGIAN FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION (RBFA)



Centrum Ethiek
in de Sport



**ROYAL BELGIAN
FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION**



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1 INTRODUCTION

The Royal Belgian Football Association (RBFA) is the overarching organization of football in Belgium. The main concern of the RBFA is the organisation, distribution, development and promotion of football in all its forms in Belgium. The football association is responsible for the national football teams and in cooperation with its regional wings - Football Flanders and ACFF - and the Pro League for the various football competitions. The Royal Belgian Football Association is the largest sport federation in Belgium. Its social responsibilities are of big importance with an emphasis on respect, sporting integrity and fair play.

Match-fixing, according to an international, widely accepted definition, is seen as (Council of Europe, 2014, art. 3.4) :

An intentional arrangement, act, or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a sports competition in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the aforementioned sports competition with a view to obtaining an undue advantage for oneself or for others.

Match-fixing generally takes on two forms: betting-related and sporting-related. On the one hand, there is betting-related match-fixing, where money is placed on a match or on specific events during a match and the match or its outcome is then manipulated to generate a betting profit. On the other hand, there is match-fixing for sporting-related reasons, this is the form where a match or competition is manipulated purely to change the sportive result or outcome. For example, with the aim of avoiding relegation, securing promotion or winning a tournament or championship.

This document is an action plan which is tailor-made for the Royal Belgian Football Federation with the aim of supporting the federation with a 3-point action plan to encouraging the optimisation of the approach towards sporting-related match-fixing.

The action plan was made by the Centre for Ethics in Sport (ICES) and falls within the scope of the Erasmus+ project "Evidence-based Prevention Of Sporting-related Match-Fixing", or EPOSM. This project aims to increase knowledge and awareness about sporting-related match-fixing. The EPOSM project covers seven European countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

Several sports are covered in the project. For Belgium, next to football, tennis and basketball are also covered.

After a brief introduction to the EPOSM project, this action plan will outline the problems and cases that have come to light in Belgian football in recent years. It will then summarize the actions already taken with regard to (sporting-related) match-fixing. Finally, a 3-point plan is formulated, indicating the next appropriate steps to take.



2 ERASMUS+ PROJECT EPOSM

2.1 Project Overview

The EPOSM project is co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. In the period from January 2020 until December 2021, European academic institutions cooperated with experts on sporting-related match-fixing in different sports disciplines. The cooperation has multiple objectives:

- Create awareness about the prevention of sporting-related match-fixing,
- Encourage moral judgement against sporting-related match-fixing, as sporting-related match-fixing threatens the credibility and attractiveness of sport,
- Sharing knowledge on the subject across the partner organisations in connection with training procedures.

A wide and diverse range of partners are involved in the project. The coordination of the project is done by the sport management team of Ghent University. The other partners are the Croatian Olympic Committee, the Universities of Utrecht, Loughborough and Lausanne, Panathlon International, CSCF - the Foundation for Sports Integrity, IRIS - Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques and the Play Fair Code. The Council of Europe is an associated partner.

In the first phase of the Erasmus+ project, the project partners conducted an online questionnaire on match-fixing in general, and sporting-related match-fixing in particular, in the 7 involved countries. Various stakeholders within the three sports ¹(different for each country) were reached, being: current and former athletes, coaches, board members, etc. The results of the survey in Belgium are discussed in the next section.

Following the survey and the initial results, criteria were formulated for the elaboration of the national action plans and the workshops. These criteria were determined by Panathlon International in consultation with the various project partners. The project partners are responsible for the training component in the project. On the basis of these criteria, an action plan is made for each sports federation involved, and subsequently workshops will be organised. In Belgium, these tasks will be elaborated by the Centre for Ethics in Sport (ICES).

¹ For Belgium: basketball, tennis and football



2.2 Results of the EPOSM study in Belgium

As already mentioned, the first phase of the EPOSM project consisted of an online survey on (sporting-related) match-fixing. The results are summarized and discussed below.

2.2.1 International Results

First, it can be seen that across all the international participants in the survey, almost 20% of respondents said they had come into contact with (in)direct offers of match-fixing. More specifically, 17.5% of all participants personally knew at least one person who had been approached for match-fixing. In addition, 8.4% said they had been approached themselves for a match-fixing proposal. The total international sample consisted of 5014 respondents who are or have been active in many different sports such as football, basketball, tennis, handball, hockey and cricket.

2.2.2 Results for Belgium

When we look at the results of the survey for Belgium, we see that the overall results for Belgium are slightly higher than the international results. However, these figures should be put into perspective due to the large heterogeneity of the international and Belgian sample.

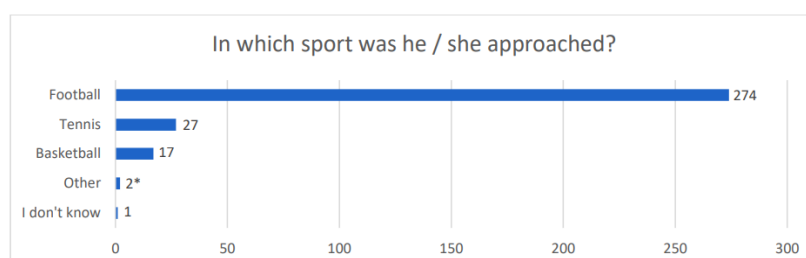
Of the 960 respondents in Belgium, 323 (33.6%) indicated that they **personally knew one or more people who had been approached for match-fixing**.

Table 7: Respondents who personally knew someone who had been approached for match-fixing (n = 960)

	"Do you personally know anyone who has been approached to fix a game / match?"	
Yes, I know one person	152	} 323
Yes, I know two persons	42	
Yes, I know three or more persons	129	
No	637	

In 274 of the 323 cases, the approached person (they knew best) was active in the football world.

Figure 2: Sport discipline of the approached person they knew best (n = 321)





In addition, 144 of the total of 792 interviewees who are or were active in the world of football indicated that they had **once been approached with a match-fixing proposal**. In relative terms, this is 18.2% of the respondents involved in football in the sample. In most cases, the approach concerned sporting-related match-fixing.

Table 8: Cases of having been approached themselves in the Belgian sample (n = 958)

	"Have you yourself ever been approached to fix a game / match?"	
Sport discipline	No	Yes
Football (n = 792)	648	144 (18,2%)
Tennis (n = 69)	61	8 (11,6%)
Basketball (n = 75)	68	7 (9,3%)
Other (n = 22)	18	4 (18,2%)

Table 10: Motive of the match-fixing cases (n = 159)

	Total (n = 159)	Football (n = 140)	Tennis (n = 8)	Basketball (n = 7)	Other (n = 4)
What was the motive of the people who approached you?					
Only betting-related match-fixing	3	2	0	1	0
Both betting- and non-betting-related match-fixing	1	1	0	0	0
Only non-betting-related match-fixing	121	110	4	6	1
Both non-betting-related and "other motive"*	4	3	1	0	0
Other motive*	27	22	2	0	3
I don't know	3	2	1	0	0

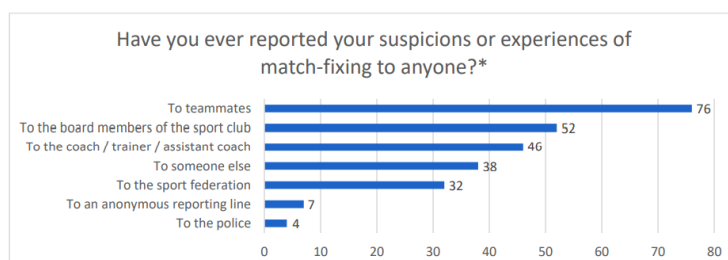
*The exact "other motive" could not be identified due to a software bug.

Finally, there are some striking figures when it comes to **reporting** suspicions and/or experiences of match-fixing. For example, 177 or 51.0% of the 347 respondents who had been approached personally for match-fixing and/or who knew someone who had been approached for match-fixing, had never reported their suspicions or experiences of match-fixing to someone. On the other hand, 166 respondents or 47.8% did report their suspicions or experiences of match-fixing to someone.

347 respondents reported
(proposed) match-fixing incidents

Of the 347 respondents who indicated (proposed) match-fixing incidents, 177 respondents (51,0%) had never reported their suspicions or experiences of match-fixing to anyone. On the other hand, 166 respondents (47,8%) had reported their suspicions or experiences of match-fixing to someone (see Figure 21).

Figure 21: Reporting suspicions or experiences of match-fixing to anyone (n = 166)



Finally, the most striking findings are listed.

- Of the total of 960 respondents in Belgium, 323 said they knew one or more people who had been approached for match-fixing.
- 144 of the 792 interviewees who are or were active in football reported that they had once been approached with a match-fixing proposal.
- Of these 144 interviewees, 110 indicated that it concerned sporting-related match-fixing.
- Less than 50.0% of the 347 respondents who said they knew one or more people who had been approached for match-fixing and/or indicated that they had been approached themselves for match-fixing, had shared their suspicions and/or experiences with someone.

3 THE CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING (SPORTING-RELATED) MATCH-FIXING

This section will discuss the current situation regarding (sporting-related) match-fixing. Both, the Belgian situation and the specific situation within the federation will be highlighted.

3.1 Status of the European Convention on the manipulation of sports competitions

The European Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Macdlin Convention) is the only international legally-binding instrument on match-fixing. It requires public bodies to cooperate with sporting organisations, betting operators and organisers of sporting competitions to prevent, detect and sanction match-fixing. It also establishes a framework for efficient international cooperation on the subject.



The treaty entered into force on 1 September 2019. Belgium has already signed the Convention in 2016 but has not yet ratified it. Thus, it is not yet applicable in Belgium.

Despite the fact that the Convention is not yet applicable in Belgium, the National Platform - a 'key-element' of the Convention (Article 13 Macolin Convention) - is already present in Belgium. At the end of 2016, the National Platform to Combat the Manipulation of Sports Matches was already established in Belgium. The National Platform is a consultative body with a wide diversity of stakeholders, notably the federal government, the communities, the federal police, the gaming commission, the national lottery and representatives of the sports sector.

The aim is to create a forum where ideas about prevention can be exchanged, problem behaviour can be detected and repressive action can be debated, either disciplinary within the federation or criminal law. The aim is to learn from each other's initiatives, share good practices and contribute to the development of a relationship of trust between the stakeholders with respect to the broader issue of sporting fraud.

The General Council meets twice a year, the Steering Committee meets more often.

3.2 Legal framework of match-fixing

In Belgium, there is no specific legislative framework regarding match-fixing in general. As in some other European countries, match-fixing is punishable on the basis of general criminal legislation, more specifically anti-corruption legislation. These are Articles 496 and 504bis of the Criminal Code, concerning private bribery and fraud.

In addition, match-fixing often goes hand in hand with activities such as money laundering, forgery and forming a criminal organisation, which are covered by other articles of the Criminal Code.

In addition to this criminal law aspect, there is also a disciplinary framework for match-fixing set up by the RBFA.

3.3 Regulatory framework of the RBFA concerning match-fixing

The RBFA has 2 instruments that form the regulatory framework concerning match-fixing. On the one hand, there are the RBFA regulations and on the other hand, there is the code of conduct of the Royal Belgian Football Association.

3.3.1 The RBFA regulations

The regulations on match-fixing and the corresponding sanctions imposed by the Royal Belgian Football Association are largely contained in Title 11, 12.3 of Book B of the RBFA Bylaws.

The most notable provisions contained in 12.3 are as follows :

- All clubs and affiliates of the RBFA have an obligation to report. This means that they are obliged to immediately report facts which demonstrate or suggest an attempt or act of match-fixing to the federation reporting centre (**art. B11.208**).



- The statute of limitations for federation's actions in the case of match-fixing is 8 years, a period which starts at the end of the season in which the offence took place (**Art. B11.210**).
- Clubs found guilty of match-fixing are severely punished by heavy fines (**art. B11.217**), relegation to a lower class (**art. B11.218**), loss of points in the ranking (**art. B11.219-B11.220**), no access to participation in the final round (**art. B11.221**), loss of (a) championship title(s) (**art. B11.222**) et cetera.
- Individuals involved in match-fixing also risk sanctions. These are suspension (**Art. B11.229**) or permanent refusal to be a member of the RBFA (**Art. B11.230**). These sanctions can be pronounced both for involvement in match-fixing and for failure to comply with the duty to report (**Art. B11.208** in conjunction with **Art. B11.232**).
- In addition, article **B.4.19,6°** explicitly stipulates the obligation for players to refrain from "any act or attempt to falsify matches and to immediately report any act or attempt to falsify matches to the RBFA".
- Article **B.5.7,4°** also obliges officials and non-playing affiliates to 'immediately report any act or attempt to falsify matches to the RBFA'.

The Federation's Regulations apply to clubs, players, trainers and officials.

3.3.2 The Code of Ethics

In addition to the RBFA federation regulations, an ethical code also applies, which prescribes how every contractually connected person should behave. In relation to match-fixing, this code stipulates that it is forbidden for any connected person to bet on football matches managed by the RBFA or to perform a function in an organisation offering this service. Furthermore, any form of manipulation of a match result is prohibited and any indication to that effect should be reported to the RBFA Integrity Manager.

3.3.3 The integrity statement for referees

This statement is transferred to candidate officials but is not made public.

3.4 Sporting-related match-fixing in Belgian football

On the one hand, in (Belgian) football there is the general 'problem' of end-of-season match-fixing. On the other hand, but also in that context, there was a recent case of sporting-related match-fixing. This case was referred to as "Clean Hands" (by the press) or "Operation Zero" (by the authorities).

First, there is the issue of end-of-season matches. These are matches in which there is a big difference in the interests of both parties involved in winning the match. For example, for one team only the importance of winning for the honour will be connected, while for the opponent(s) much bigger interests are at stake. Because of the (great) difference in interests, there is a danger that the parties will (un)consciously manipulate the match. For one party there is little at stake so they may be less motivated to do their best (un)consciously. However, they can make a bargain, as it were (consciously), whether or not in exchange for a fee or a favour.



A major interest of one side may be to promote to a higher category or not to relegate to a lower category. Since relegation and promotion normally occur at the end of the season, this phenomenon is called an 'end-of-season match'.

Similar to this is the situation where both teams have the same interest in the end and therefore agree on a draw. For example, when both teams need a draw to reach their goal (promotion, relegation, finishing above another team, etc.).

In addition, there is the 'Clean Hands' case. This is a case of sporting-related match-fixing that caused a great deal of commotion in the Belgian football world.

The case came to light on 10 October 2018 when several leading figures in Belgian football were arrested and questioned by the Belgian public prosecutor's office in connection with a match-fixing scandal. What was shocking about this case was that a lot of different actors appeared to be involved, players, trainers, brokers, journalists as well as referees were all questioned and held under suspicion.

Clean Hands appeared to relate to the end-of-season match between KV Mechelen and Waasland-Beveren in the 2017-2018 season of the Belgian First Division. That season, KV Mechelen had ended up in the relegation battle and before the match against Waasland-Beveren, tried to approach people involved with the latter club in order to influence the outcome of the match between the two in favour of KV Mechelen.

In the end, the club KV Mechelen was found guilty of match-fixing but did not relegate because the possible period for the sanction had been expired.

4 THE CURRENT FIGHT AGAINST SPORTING-RELATED MATCH-FIXING

This section looks at what actions have already been taken by the Royal Belgian Football Association in the fight against sporting-related match-fixing.

The description of the instruments already adopted and actions taken will be based on the Integrity Management Framework (IMF).

4.1 The Integrity Management Framework

The Integrity Management Framework was originally developed for the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) by Jeroen Maesschalck and Janos Bertok. The model or framework can be used to map out an organisation's integrity policy (or part of it, such as match-fixing) and to see where reinforcement might be needed.

The central premise of the Integrity Management Framework is that a good integrity policy (in this case, the match-fixing policy) must be based on three pillars.

- 1) The instruments of match-fixing policy.
- 2) The processes: necessary to bring the instruments to life and keep them working.
- 3) Structures: In order to have an impact, the match-fixing policy must be incorporated into the organisation's chart. There also needs to be explicit responsibility for the match-fixing policy within the organisation.

Going deeper into the instruments (the first pillar of the IMF) we can divide them into 4 groups, according to the specific function each of them has in the integrity policy, here match-fixing policy. The table below lists the different groups, their function and examples of the instruments.

Group of instruments	Function of the instruments	Which instruments?
Determining and defining match-fixing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These instruments are suitable for determining and then describing the behaviour expected from those involved in match-fixing. - What values are important and what rules must be followed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A risk analysis - Analysis of ethical dilemmas in the sport in question - Code of Conduct - Code of Ethics - Disciplinary code
Guidance on match-fixing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The aim of these instruments is to provide guidance to those involved, so that they know what is expected of them with regard to match-fixing. - And encourage them to stick to it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethical leadership of the executives and within the organization - Training and education (including dilemma training) - Coaching and counselling
Monitoring of match-fixing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These instruments can be used to determine the extent to which the match-fixing policy is followed/complied with. - Passive monitoring: reporting violations - Active monitoring: detection of violations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complaints system - Match-fixing hotline - Whistleblower policy - Investigating the reports - Analyse the messages - Mapping violations by means of surveys



<p>Enforcing and strengthening match-fixing policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action must be taken when the rules are broken (proportionate, uniform and fair) - Within the organisation(s), certain persons must be appointed to deal specifically with match-fixing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informal sanctions - Formal sanction procedures - Procedures for crisis communication - Appointing a SPOC (Single Point of Contact), an API (contact person for integrity), clearly defining his powers and facilitating his activities
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4.2 Current instruments of the federation in the fight against match-fixing

In the table below, the current instruments will be placed within the model. The Royal Belgian Football Association is abbreviated to **RBFA**.

Group of instruments	Which instruments?
Determining and defining match-fixing	<p>4.2.1.1 A risk analysis</p> <p>The RBFA has not yet carried out a specific risk analysis with regard to match-fixing.</p> <p>The RBFA receives information from UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) and Sportradar about matches in which suspicious actions which could indicate match-fixing are taking place. This only concerns professional competitions.</p> <p>For the lower levels, no such information is available. However, there too, one is aware of risk factors of match-fixing, such as end-of-season matches and matches with (in)direct consequences on promotion and relegation.</p> <p>4.2.1.2 RBFA regulations</p> <p>Title 11 of the RBFA regulations clearly defines what is meant by match-fixing. The obligation to report is also clearly defined.</p> <p>4.2.1.3 Code of Ethics</p> <p>The code of ethics also defines what is not allowed regarding match-fixing. The code of ethics applies to all staff members.</p>
Guidance on match-fixing	<p>4.2.1.4 Training, education, coaching and consulting (including dilemma training)</p> <p>For the A teams of the Belgian professional clubs, there is already a training on match-fixing, both sporting- and betting-related. It is planned to extend this to all professional clubs' offspring as soon as the Covid-19 pandemic allows it.</p> <p>In the context of the European Integriball+ project, coaching sessions were set up. These will be further distributed by employees of the RBFA, Voetbal Vlaanderen and ACFF. These persons have been trained to deliver the coaching sessions in the coming months and years to clubs, players and coaches from amateur football. The goal is to reach the entire amateur football with presentations on match-fixing. The dangers of betting and the relationship between a gambling addiction and match-fixing will also be included.</p>



<p>Monitoring of match-fixing</p>	<p>4.2.1.5 Complaints system</p> <p>Clubs or members can file a complaint with the RBFA. A complaint is submitted to the Federation's Prosecutor's Office which consists of the public prosecutor, deputy public prosecutors and the investigation coordinator. The latter examines whether concrete elements have been submitted with the complaint which may prove the facts.</p> <p>If this is the case, the complaint will be passed on to the commission of inquiry, which will examine the case more closely and will then pass on its detailed findings to the Federation's Public Prosecutor's Office. Finally, the Federation's Public Prosecutor can then refer the case to the Disciplinary Council for Professional Football (professional football) or the competent disciplinary authority (amateur football).</p> <p>The ruling can still be appealed before the Belgian Court of Arbitration for Sport (BAS).</p> <p>4.2.1.6 Match-fixing hotline</p> <p>The RBFA has its own contact point where match-fixing cases can be reported.</p> <p>This reporting point is available online via a web page¹ and also directly via telephone or electronic contact with the Integrity Officer of the RBFA.²</p> <p>In addition, both regional wings (Voetbal Vlaanderen and ACFF) have a match-fixing hotline.</p> <p>Finally, a report of match-fixing can (since recently) also be made through the official RBFA application, the RBFA-app. This possibility is a very good initiative of the RBFA and can be seen as a good practice towards other federations.</p> <p>4.2.1.7 Investigating the reports</p> <p>The reports are investigated in several steps, similar to the complaints.</p> <p>Without passing judgement on the facts, reports are received and subjected to an initial analysis by the Integrity Officer. If the report contains sufficient concrete elements, it will be passed on to the RBFA Public Prosecutor's Office, after which the same procedure will be followed as described under the complaints system.</p> <p>4.2.1.8 Mapping violations by means of surveys</p> <p>Here we can point to the first phase of the EPOSM Project, namely the survey and its results on match-fixing among football players. This survey serves as an instrument under this topic of match-fixing policy and provides some interesting insights.</p>
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¹ <https://www.rbfa.be/nl/cometoegether>

² <https://www.rbfa.be/nl/competities/meldpunt-competiitievervalsing>



Enforcing and strengthening match-fixing policies	<p>4.2.1.9 Formal sanction procedure</p> <p>See 'Complaints system'.</p> <p>4.2.1.10 Procedures for crisis communication</p> <p>When crisis communication is required, this is discussed by a number of persons (e.g. management, Integrity Officer, press officer,...) within the RBFA. Who exactly is involved depends on the crisis situation (seriousness, scope, people involved,...)</p> <p>4.2.1.11 Appointing a SPOC (Single Point of Contact), an API (contact person for integrity), clearly defining his powers and facilitating his activities</p> <p>The RBFA has appointed an Integrity Officer to monitor ethical issues, including sporting-related match-fixing. The Integrity Officer is also part of the match-fixing hotline at the RBFA.</p> <p>He is always available to report cases. Should he need assistance in doing so, the Legal & Competitions Department will assist him.</p>
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5 STRENGTHENING THE INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

There is already a good regulatory framework in place within the RBFA. However, there are still some things that could possibly be upgraded. The 3-point action plan is therefore aimed at practical adjustments with a limited implementation burden.

In the white row below the action point, there is always a tip or a point for attention. A tip means a recommendation on how the action point could be elaborated. A point of attention is a point that one should pay extra attention to when executing the action point.

5.1 Reports of (sporting-related) match-fixing

5.1.1 Checklist

Action point	Check?
Inform the notifier clearly about the procedure that his/her report will follow (transparency procedure)	
<p>Point of attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person making the report finds the necessary information about what will happen to his/her report on the page where he/she can make the report. The notifier needs this information to be able to assess the consequences of his/her report. 	



<p>Tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To indicate with a diagram the possible consequences of a report. ▪ What are the options of a reporter: formal/informal? ▪ For inspiration, take a look at how Unia (the Equal Opportunities Centre) handles this : https://www.unia.be/nl/over-unia/wat-gebeurt-er-met-je-melding 	
A report of match-fixing can also be made via the RBFA app.	
<p>Point of attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In a digitalised world, a reporting point close to those affected is important. ▪ By analogy with the Red Button app for professional players: https://www.fifpro.org/en/rights/match-fixing/the-red-button-app-explained 	
Clearly state that reports of match-fixing can be made anonymously . Also indicate how anonymity will be guaranteed.	
<p>Point of attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guaranteeing anonymity increases the willingness to report. 	
Analysis of the procedure that a report of match-fixing goes through.	
<p>Point of attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is a report assessed objectively enough by those responsible for ethics and, above all, how is this ensured? 	
All information about reporting match-fixing is collected on one webpage.	
<p>Point of attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are currently 2 web pages, which are not fully aligned, regarding reporting an incident/suspicion of match-fixing. <p>Tip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Also make sure that the information is easy to find by using the search engine. 	

5.2 Attention to sporting-related match-fixing at all levels

5.2.1 Checklist

Action point	Check?
Make a general risk analysis of match-fixing.	



<p>Point of attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balance between sporting- and betting-related match-fixing <p>Tip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To do this, work together with an external organisation or organisations that can look at things from a different perspective than your own employees. 	
Communicating to all stakeholders about sporting-related match-fixing in the fight against sporting-related match-fixing.	
<p>Tip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using an infographic, inform stakeholders about sporting-related match-fixing, the forms it takes, the dangers and how to report such cases. 	
Analyse league formats to curb end-of-season match-fixing.	
<p>Tip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For less competitive participants, competition formats are devised without promotion and relegation. 	
Raising awareness around end-of-season matches at all levels. ¹	
<p>Point of attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EPOSM survey showed that sporting-related match-fixing often occurs among amateur footballers. 	
Draw attention to how stakeholders can report match-fixing.	
<p>Point of attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EPOSM study has shown that the reporting rate of suspicions / cases of match-fixing is (very) low. 	
Being attentive to motives of and dangers for match-fixing.	
<p>Points of attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Players who don't get paid. Referees appointed (too) early to a match. <p>Tip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that clubs cannot know in advance which referee(s) will officiate their match. 	

¹ In full development



5.3 The Code of Ethics, training and education

5.3.1 Checklist

Action point	Check?
Each football club recognised by the RBFA includes in its regulations provisions on match-fixing.	
Tip <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBFA has drawn up a number of standard provisions that are offered to football clubs for inclusion in their regulations. 	
Analyse the code of ethics for its effectiveness using scientific research.	
Tip <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scientific studies on this are : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E. DE WAEGENEER 2015 E. DE WAEGENEER 2016 B. CONSTANDT 2019 	
The RBFA offers a fixed training programme on match-fixing. The RBFA obliges its member clubs to organize training on a regular basis on all aspects of match-fixing. Provide regular match-fixing training for national youth teams.	
Tip <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The federation can cooperate with different partners for this purpose. 	

6 REFERENCE LIST

6.1 Sources RBFA

- <https://www.rbfa.be/nl/over-ons/wie-zijn-we>
- [RBFA-ETHIC-CODE-NL.pdf](#)
- <https://www.rbfa.be/nl/cometogether>
- <https://www.rbfa.be/nl/competities/meldpunt-competitievalsing>

6.2 Other sources

- Council of Europe. (2014). Council of Europe convention on the manipulation of sports competitions. Retrieved from <https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/match-fixing>.
- 2018 Report National Platform on Match-fixing.
- 2017 Annual Report National Platform Match-fixing - [180801_Annual Report_2017_national_platform_matchfixing.pdf \(sport.vlaanderen\)](#).



- May 2009, Towards a Sound Integrity Framework: Instruments, Processes, Structures and Conditions for Implementation.
- [HOME | EPOSM](#)
- [International treaty against match-fixing comes into force - Team Belgium](#)
- [matchfixing-en-5b86a7f95c64c.pdf \(teambelgium.be\)](#)