

# EP SM

EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTION OF SPORTING-RELATED MATCH-FIXING

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



## RESULTS AUSTRIA

Coordinator



**GHENT  
UNIVERSITY**

Project partner



**PLAY FAIR CODE**  
**INTEGRITY WINS**



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Table of contents</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2 Data collection method</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3 Data analysis</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Respondents' characteristics</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 Statements</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 Prevalence of match-fixing</b>	<b>8</b>
6.1 Do you personally know anyone who has been approached to fix a game / match?	8
6.2 Have you yourself ever been approached to fix a game / match?	10
6.2.1 Match-fixing cases in general	10
6.2.2 Betting- and non-betting-related match-fixing cases	11
<b>7 Reporting suspicions or experiences of match-fixing</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>8 Match-fixing prevention in sport clubs</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>9 Conclusion</b>	<b>15</b>



# 1 INTRODUCTION

Did you know that match-fixing is not always about betting on results or events in or during the match? Also for other reasons matches are 'fixed' and results are affected. 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 Play Fair Code is one of the non-academic partners. Play Fair Code was responsible for the data collection and knowledge dissemination in Austria. Other project partners include Utrecht University, the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS), Croatian Olympic Committee, Lausanne University, 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 Austria**

In Austria, the project focuses on football, basketball, and handball. 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, basketball, and handball in Austria. On the basis of these results, Play Fair Code will develop concrete action plans for these three sport disciplines. The action plans will serve as roadmaps toward raising knowledge, awareness and moral judgment on sporting-related match-fixing in Austria and will be implemented during several workshops with relevant actors in Austrian football, basketball, and handball.



## **2 DATA COLLECTION METHOD**

The Austrian sport associations and / or leagues from seven sport disciplines are represented in the Play Fair Code. The Play Fair Code maintains regular business relationships with its partner organizations and, in addition to numerous other tasks, takes on the education and training of their athletes, coaches, referees and officials on the subject of match fixing and betting fraud.

Survey dissemination experience to date (at least in Austria) has clearly shown that a dissemination approach exclusively by e-mail distribution (bulk mailing and / or personalized) as well as via social networks or the Play Fair Code website would by far not have reached the required amount of properly disseminated surveys.

In the period planned (March - September 2020) for carrying out the survey according to the project description, Play Fair Code training seminars were conducted on site with the athletes in the sporting disciplines football, handball and basketball on a face-to-face and interactive training and education basis. Interviewees included athletes, referees and functionaries from professional level, semi-professional level and amateur level all over Austria. In the aftermath of the training sessions the surveys were distributed to and disseminated by the athletes as a pencil version followed by a data-transfer (managed by Play Fair Code) of the collected data into the project's digital data base. Also surveys were disseminated online on-site with the interviewees using a QR-code and their mobile phones. In addition, the link to the survey was also sent personally to contact persons in the management of the involved associations / leagues or to club representatives with the request to forward the link to the potential participants from the target group (officials, athletes, trainers, referees).

In total, 976 people started the survey and 740 of them fully completed the questionnaire (response rate = 75,8%). 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, conform institutional ethics standards. A final sample of 681 respondents was obtained.

## **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, basketball, and handball) regarding several statements about match-fixing (section 5). 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 Austrian prevalence figures of the three sport disciplines with the figures of the total sample.



## 4 RESPONDENTS' CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1: Overview of the respondents' characteristics (n = 681)

	Total (n = 681)	Football (n = 553)	Basketball (n = 67)	Handball (n = 24)	Other (n = 37)
<b>Language</b>					
German	90,2%	100%	0,0%	100%	100%
English	9,8%	0,0%	100%	0,0%	0,0%
<b>Gender</b>					
Man	83,0%	81,4%	98,5%	95,8%	70,3%
Woman	17,0%	18,6%	1,5%	4,2%	29,7%
Other	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
I prefer not to say	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
<b>Age: M (SD)*</b>	26,4 (10,2)	26,0 (10,3)	25,4 (6,3)	31,3 (11,9)	30,5 (12,1)
<b>How long have you been involved in this sport (in years)? M (SD)*</b>	17,7 (8,8)	17,7 (8,7)	15,0 (6,9)	21,3 (11,0)	19,1 (10,6)
<b>How are (were) you mainly related to this sport?</b>					
Athlete	86,5%	87,0%	86,6%	70,8%	89,2%
Coach / Trainer / Assistant coach	7,5%	7,6%	9,0%	12,5%	0,0%
Medical staff	0,4%	0,4%	1,5%	0,0%	0,0%
Referee / (Video) Assistant Referee / (Fourth) official / Jury member	0,1%	0,2%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%
Board member / Assembly member / Manager of a sport club	4,6%	4,2%	1,5%	16,7%	8,1%
Other	0,6%	0,4%	1,5%	0,0%	2,7%
<b>At what level are (were) you mainly involved?</b>					
Professional	20,7%	14,6%	62,7%	41,7%	21,6%
Semi-professional	35,4%	36,0%	32,8%	37,5%	29,7%
Amateur	43,9%	49,4%	4,5%	20,8%	48,6%
<b>At what playing level are (were) you mainly involved?</b>					
International	10,6%	8,3%	17,9%	4,2%	35,1%
National	48,2%	44,7%	80,6%	75,0%	24,3%
Local	38,5%	44,5%	1,5%	20,8%	27,0%
Leisure activity / Recreational	2,8%	2,5%	0,0%	0,0%	13,5%

\*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.”

Table 2: Match-fixing: its seriousness, and risks (n = 644)

	“Match-fixing is a real problem in my sport discipline in Austria.”	“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 = 553)	3,6 ± 1,7	2,7 ± 1,8
Basketball (n = 67)	4,9 ± 1,6	2,6 ± 1,8
Handball (n = 24)	2,6 ± 1,6	2,0 ± 1,3

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 Austria,” 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’  $\lambda = .929$ ,  $F(4, 1280) = 11.933$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .036$ ). 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:  $F(2, 641) = 22.681$ ,  $p < .001$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .066$ ). The people involved in basketball assess the risk of match-fixing in their sport higher than do the actors in football (Tukey’s honestly significant difference test [Tukey’s HSD]  $p < .001$ ) and handball (Tukey’s HSD  $p < .001$ ). Additionally, the people involved in football estimate the risk of match-fixing in their sport significantly higher than do the actors in handball (Tukey’s HSD  $p < .05$ ). As shown in the second column of Table 2, no 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:  $F(2, 641) = 1.458$ ,  $p > .10$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .005$ ).

Table 3: Uncomfortable feelings about others who have been involved in match-fixing (n = 644)

	“I feel somewhat uncomfortable when I hear that someone in my sporting environment has been involved in <b>sporting-related match-fixing</b> . (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 <b>betting-related match-fixing</b> .”
Sport discipline	(M ± SD)	(M ± SD)
Football (n = 553)	5,8 ± 1,8	5,8 ± 1,7
Basketball (n = 67)	6,0 ± 1,5	6,0 ± 1,5
Handball (n = 24)	5,9 ± 1,3	6,1 ± 1,3

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’  $\lambda = .996$ ,  $F(4, 1280) = .601$ ,  $p > .10$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .002$ ). 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:  $F(2, 641) = .542$ ,  $p > .10$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .002$ ). As shown in the second 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 betting-related match-fixing (univariate effect:  $F(2, 641) = 1.063$ ,  $p > .10$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .003$ ).

Table 4: Uncomfortable feelings about others who have not been punished for match-fixing (n = 644)

	“I feel somewhat uncomfortable when I hear that someone has not been punished for engaging in <b>sporting-related match-fixing.</b> ”	“I feel somewhat uncomfortable when I hear that someone has not been punished for engaging in <b>betting-related match-fixing.</b> ”
Sport discipline	(M $\pm$ SD)	(M $\pm$ SD)
Football (n = 553)	5,6 $\pm$ 1,8	5,6 $\pm$ 1,8
Basketball (n = 67)	6,0 $\pm$ 1,5	5,9 $\pm$ 1,5
Handball (n = 24)	6,1 $\pm$ 0,9	5,8 $\pm$ 1,3

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’  $\lambda = .993$ ,  $F(4, 1280) = 1.055$ ,  $p > .10$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .003$ ). 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:  $F(2, 641) = 1.754$ ,  $p > .10$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .005$ ). As shown in the second 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 betting-related match-fixing (univariate effect:  $F(2, 641) = 1.196$ ,  $p > .10$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .004$ ).

Table 5: Acceptability of match-fixing (n = 644)

	“Participating in match-fixing to avoid relegation of my team, is acceptable.”	“Participating in match-fixing to make money through <b>betting</b> , is acceptable.”
Sport discipline	(M $\pm$ SD)	(M $\pm$ SD)
Football (n = 553)	1,8 $\pm$ 1,5	1,7 $\pm$ 1,4
Basketball (n = 67)	1,4 $\pm$ 1,0	1,3 $\pm$ 1,1
Handball (n = 24)	1,4 $\pm$ 0,7	1,2 $\pm$ 0,5

M = mean, SD = standard deviation

A trend towards a 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’  $\lambda = .987$ ,  $F(4, 1280) = 2.039$ ,  $.10 > p > .05$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .006$ ). As shown in the first column of Table 5, a significant difference is noticed between the sport disciplines regarding the acceptability of match-fixing to avoid relegation of his / her team (univariate effect:  $F(2, 641) = 3.394$ ,  $p < .05$ ,  $\eta_p^2 = .010$ ).



The people involved in football perceive match-fixing to avoid relegation of his / her team as more acceptable than do the actors in basketball (Tukey’s HSD  $p < .05$ ). Additionally, no significant differences are noticed between the people involved in handball, and those involved in football (Tukey’s HSD  $p > .10$ ) and basketball (Tukey’s HSD  $p > .10$ ) regarding the acceptability of match-fixing to avoid relegation of his / her team. As shown in the second column of Table 5, a trend towards a significant difference is noticed between the sport disciplines regarding the acceptability of match-fixing to make money through the betting market (univariate effect:  $F(2, 641) = 2.932, .10 > p > .05, \eta_p^2 = .009$ ). However, after performing post-hoc comparisons, no significant differences are found between the sport disciplines regarding the acceptability of match-fixing to make money through the betting market (Tukey’s HSD  $p > .10$ ).

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!**

Table 6: Two statements about gambling and betting (n = 644)

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 = 553)	45,4%	54,6%	6,0%	94,0%
Basketball (n = 67)	14,9%	85,1%	0,0%	100%
Handball (n = 24)	37,5%	62,5%	0,0%	100%



## 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, **78 respondents** indicated that they personally knew one or more persons who had been approached to fix a game / match.

Table 7: Respondents who personally knew someone who had been approached for match-fixing (n = 679)

	“Do you personally know anyone who has been approached to fix a game / match?”
Yes, I know one person	47
Yes, I know two persons	9
Yes, I know three or more persons	22
No	601

When they thought of the approached person they knew best, they indicated that:

Figure 1: Gender of the approached person they knew best (n = 78)

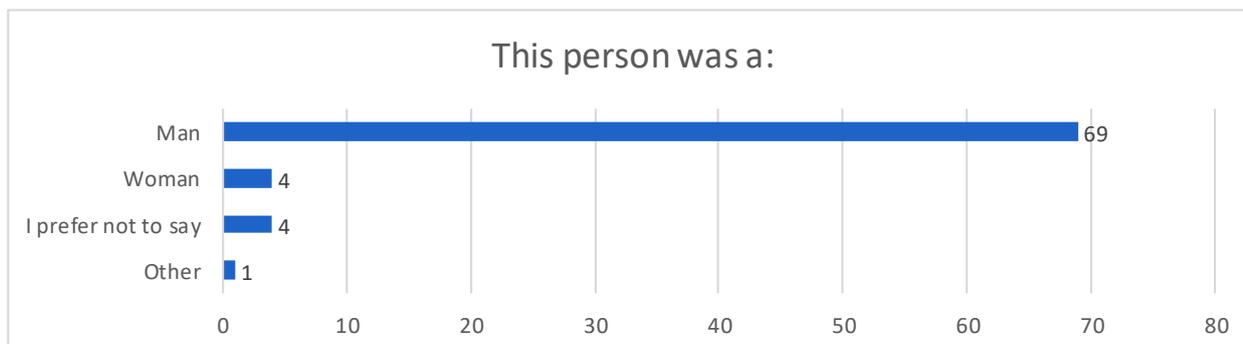
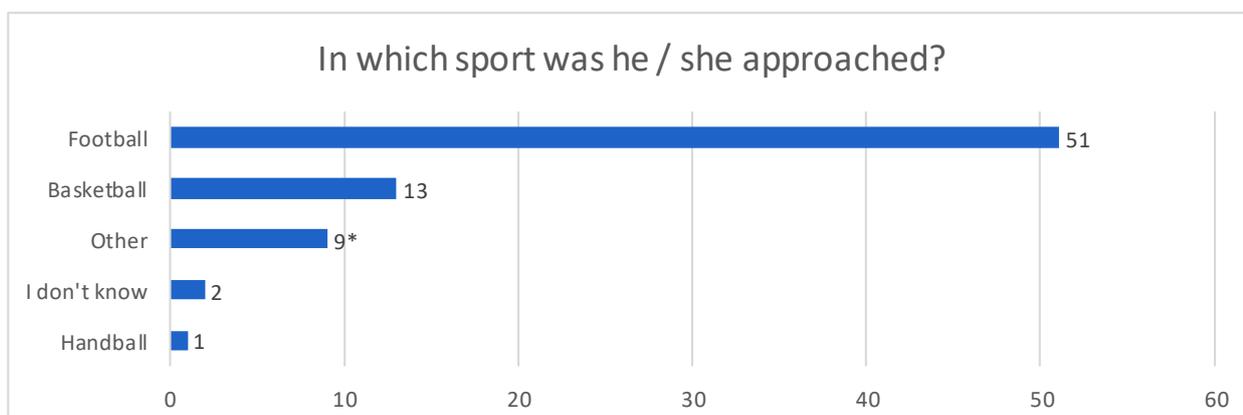


Figure 2: Sport discipline of the approached person they knew best (n = 76)



\*Seven respondents indicated that the person they knew best was involved in tennis, and two respondents indicated that the person they knew best was involved in ice hockey.



Figure 3: Way of involvement of the approached person they knew best (n = 76)

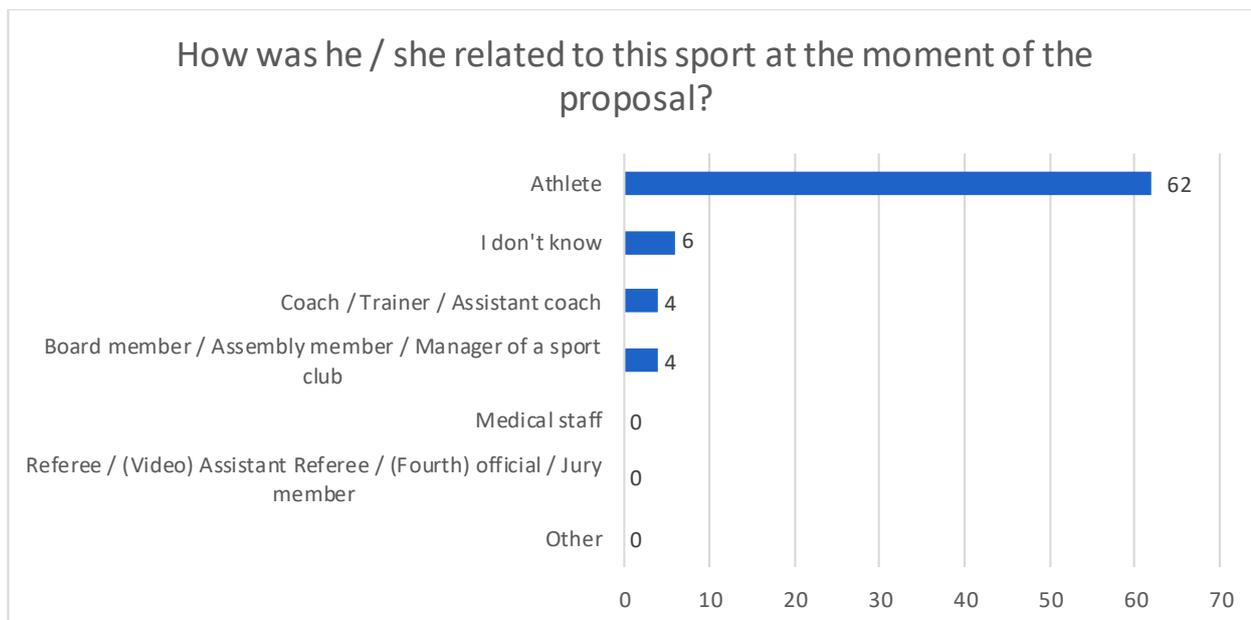
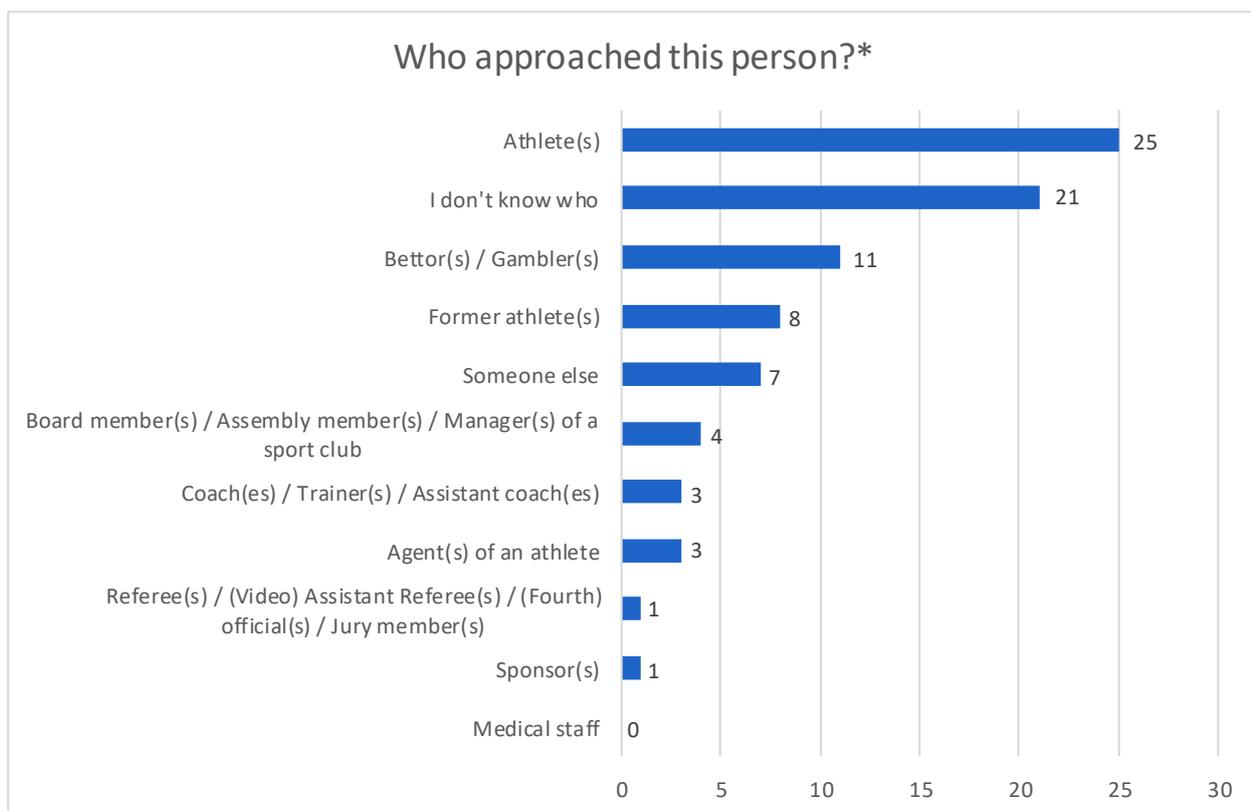


Figure 4: The people who approached the person they knew best (n = 78)



\*The sum of the figures exceeds 78, 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.

*Table 8: Cases of having been approached themselves in the Austrian sample (n = 679)*

Sport discipline	“Have you yourself ever been approached to fix a game / match?”	
	No	Yes
Football (n = 551)	543	8 (1,5%)
Basketball (n = 67)	66	1 (1,5%)
Handball (n = 24)	24	0 (0,0%)
Other (n = 37)	37	0 (0,0%)

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

*Table 9: Match-fixing cases per sport discipline in the total sample (n = 3375)*

Sport discipline	“Have you yourself ever been approached to fix a game / match?”	
	Yes	
Football (n = 2944)	278 (9,4%)	
Basketball (n = 261)	16 (6,1%)	
Handball (n = 170)	7 (4,1%)	

Further details about the Austrian match-fixing cases, show that 5 respondents indicated that they had only been approached once. At the moment of their **only** approach (n = 5), they were 22,6 years old on average (standard deviation 6,8).

Additionally, one respondent indicated that (s)he had been approached two to three times to fix a match, and two persons indicated that they had been approached more than 3 times to fix a match. The average age of the first time (n = 2) they were approached to fix a match was 24,5 years old (standard deviation 0,7). The average age of the **last time** (n = 2) they were approached to fix a match was 27,0 years old (standard deviation 1,4).



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

Regarding the **last (or only) time** they were approached to fix a match, two respondents revealed that they were only approached for a betting-related proposal (see Table 10). On the other hand, 4 respondents indicated that they were only approached for a non-betting-related proposal. More specifically, all 4 respondents indicated that the proposal was made to prevent relegation of a specific club or player. Furthermore, two respondents reported that they were approached for another motive.

Table 10: Motive of the match-fixing cases (n = 8)

	Total (n = 8)
<b>What was the motive of the people who approached you?</b>	
<b>Only</b> betting-related match-fixing	2
<b>Both</b> betting- and non-betting-related match-fixing	0
<b>Only</b> non-betting-related match-fixing	4
<b>Both</b> non-betting-related and “other motive”*	0
Other motive*	2
I don’t know	0

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

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

The group of four respondents who revealed that they were only approached for a sporting-related proposal were all involved in football (gender is not specified to ensure confidentiality). At the moment of the proposal, three of them were involved as an athlete and one of them was involved as a coach, trainer or assistant coach. Two of them were involved on a professional level, whereas the other two were involved on an amateur level.

The first person who was approached, was involved as a football 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 board member(s), assembly member(s) or manager(s) of her / his own sport club. The motive of the proposal was to prevent relegation, and (s)he indicated that they tried to influence the outcome of the game / match (who wins / loses). Moreover, (s)he indicated that the instigators expected a deliberate underperformance. Additionally, (s)he indicated that the proposal took place in Austria and that (s)he was not offered money. (S)he was not offered other material inducements and (s)he was not threatened or pressured. Eventually, (s)he did not consent to the proposal.

A second person who indicated that (s)he was approached for a non-betting-related proposal, was involved as an athlete on a professional and international level (at the moment of the proposal). (S)he indicated that (s)he was approached by (an)other athlete(s) of her / his own club / team. The motive of the proposal was to prevent relegation of a certain club, and they tried to influence the outcome of the game / match by deliberately underperforming. Moreover, the proposal took place in Turkey and (s)he was offered between €1000 and €5000. No other material inducements were offered. Furthermore, (s)he was not threatened or pressured and did not consent to the proposal.

The third respondent who was approached for a sporting-related proposal, was involved as an athlete 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 the opponent. They approached her / him to prevent relegation of a certain club and tried to influence the outcome of the game / match by deliberately underperforming. The proposal took place in Austria and (s)he was not offered money or other material inducements. Furthermore, (s)he was not threatened or pressured to fix the match. Eventually, (s)he did not consent to the proposal.

The last respondent who was approached for a sporting-related proposal, was involved as an athlete on a professional and national level (at the moment of the proposal). Moreover, (s)he indicated that (s)he was approached by referee(s), (video) assistant referee(s) or (fourth) official(s) who were affiliated with the opponent. They tried to prevent the relegation of a certain club by influencing the exact result of the game / match. Moreover, (s)he indicated that they tried to manipulate the equipment. The proposal took place in Austria and (s)he was offered more than €5000. However, (s)he was not threatened or pressured. Eventually, (s)he did not consent to the proposal to fix the match.

### **Only betting-related proposals**

The two respondents who revealed that they were only approached for a betting-related proposal, were both involved in football. At the moment of the proposal, they were both involved as athletes. One of them was involved as a professional on an international level, whereas the other was involved as semi-professional on a national level.

The respondent who was involved as a professional athlete on an international level (at the moment of the proposal) indicated that (s)he was approached by a Facebook user of whom (s)he did not know to which organization this person was affiliated. Moreover, (s)he indicated that (s)he did not know what they were seeking to influence and that (s)he did not know what they were trying to make happen on the sport field / during the manifestation of the manipulation. Additionally, (s)he revealed that the proposal took place in Austria. (S)he was not offered money or other material inducements. Furthermore, (s)he was not threatened or pressured and did not consent to the proposal.

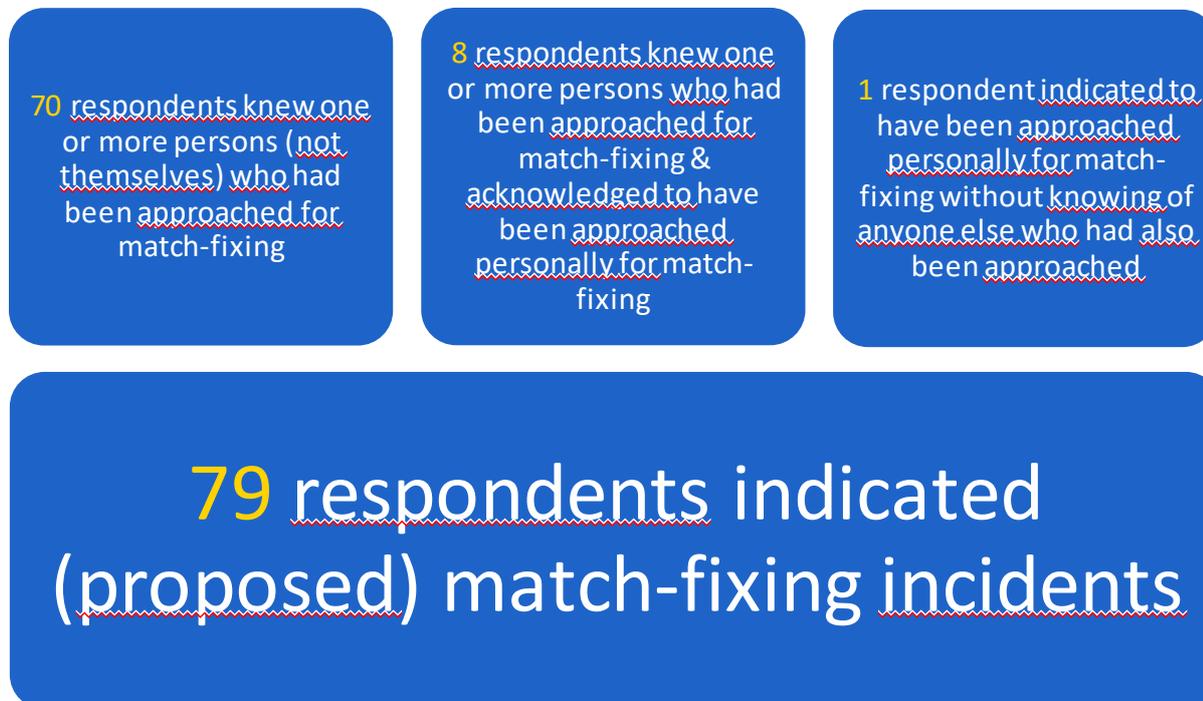
The respondent who was involved as a semi-professional athlete on a national level (at the moment of the proposal) did not indicate who approached her / him. However, (s)he revealed that the instigators tried to influence specific events during the game / match and that they expected a deliberate underperformance. Moreover, the proposal took place in Austria and (s)he was offered between €100 and €500. Furthermore, no other material inducements were offered to fix the game / match and (s)he was not threatened or pressured. Eventually, (s)he did not consent to the proposal.



## 7 REPORTING SUSPICIONS OR EXPERIENCES OF MATCH-FIXING

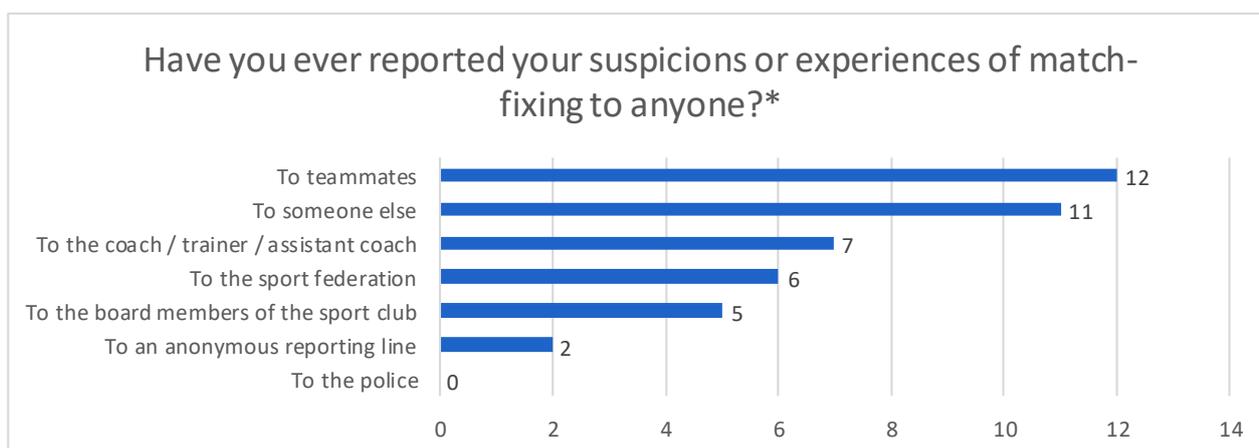
Taking into account the figures of sections 6.1 and 6.2, Figure 5 depicts an overview of the (proposed) match-fixing incidents.

Figure 5: (Proposed) match-fixing incidents



Of the **79** respondents who indicated (proposed) match-fixing incidents, **48** respondents (60,8%) had never reported their suspicions or experiences of match-fixing to anyone. On the other hand, **31** respondents (39,2%) 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 = 31)



\*The sum of the figures exceeds 31, 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 **653** respondents who indicated that they were still involved in a sport club, **32** respondents (4,9%) indicated that their sport club does not pay attention to match-fixing and **215** respondents (32,9%) indicated that they don't know if their sport club pays attention to match-fixing.

On the other hand, **406** respondents (**62,2%**) indicated that their sport club pays attention to match-fixing. As shown in Figure 7, respondents mainly indicated that their sport club provides information (sessions) / training about match-fixing.

Figure 7: Match-fixing prevention in sport clubs (n= 406)



\*The sum of the figures exceeds 406, because multiple answers were possible to the question.



## 9 CONCLUSION

The conclusions deriving from these results provide potential explanations and deductions. All conclusions arise from the Play Fair Code's long-lasting experience in prevention-work, monitoring, and examinations in the field of match-fixing and betting fraud.

### **Ad 4) Respondents' Characteristics**

Data were collected during Play Fair Code's prevention workshops between spring and autumn 2020. The questionnaire was distributed to the workshop participants. Therefore, the data is not representative of the Austrian population of athletes and general sport stakeholders.

Since the workshops were mainly attended by sports teams, the ratio of jobs and functions was expected. (Ergo: High number of active athletes, low numbers of coaches, staff, referees, managers or board members.). Nonetheless, the collected data does present valuable insights regarding team sports in Austria.

### **Ad 5) Statements**

Table 2 reveals that most respondents do not believe that match-fixing is an issue in their sports since the mean values for this statement are relatively low. This could be related to the low number of publicly known cases in Austria and over ten years of prevention work and awareness raising.

The higher mean value for basketball can be explained with a recent match-fixing case in Austria's Basketball Super Liga. Thus, match - here the problem currently and actually is more present than in other disciplines. (Also see corresponding data in the following.)

The low mean values regarding the risk of being approached show a high trust in Austria's prevention work. Similarly, the low mean values regarding the acceptance of participating in match-fixing or making money through betting, support this notion (see Tables 3 & 5).

Consequently, the mean values for the moral sensitivity and judgment about match-fixing (feeling uncomfortable when hearing about involvement and punishment in and for match-fixing and betting fraud) the numbers – ergo approval – are therefore accordingly high.

The figures on active gambling and betting (see Table 6), even on one own's matches in individual cases, open an approach to improving and deepening prevention work in this field.

### **Ad 6) Prevalence of Match-fixing**

One query related to knowledge about other persons having been approached regarding match-fixing. The results reveal a considerable number of people (70 individuals) who confirmed this (see Figure 5). Interpreting these results, the attention has to be drawn to the data collection which took place immediately after a prevention workshop. The awareness created through the workshop and the case



studies shown might have biased the responses. Furthermore, a match-fixing case in basketball (see above) took place in Austria shortly before disseminating the survey.

Therefore, the possibility of a misunderstanding between “I personally know a person...” and “I have heard about a person...” should be kept in mind when interpreting these findings.

Moreover, the phrase “personally” used in the question text (table 7) may be understood differently in German than in English.

The fact that almost all players in the respective sports leagues know each other relatively well supports the perception that players who were addressed are known “personally”.

Most respondents who revealed that they had been approached to fix a game/match specified these approaches as “non-betting-related”, which shows the relevance and prevalence of this very motive.

This supports the topic’s relevance.

11.5% of people surveyed in Austria said they “knew” one or more people who had already been contacted about match-fixing. The international figure was about 20%.

Less than 1.5% of those surveyed in Austria stated that they had actually been approached. It was nearly 9% in the full sample (international).

Overall, it can be said that the figures in this section are positive from an Austrian perspective and rather challenging in the overall international picture.

The fact that Austria is a brighter spot in an international comparison can clearly be credited to the many years of prevention work of the Play Fair Code. This assessment is also confirmed by Tables 2 and 3 regarding awareness about the overall problem.

Of course, this necessarily has not to do with Austria being “best in class”, but much more - given an approx. 10-year track record in prevention and education - being “long in class” in terms of sustainability and persistence.

## **Ad 7) Reporting Suspicions or Experiences of Match-fixing**

The findings of the reporting practice might be the most important outcome for the future Austrian prevention work. Although there have been clear signs of a “lack of reporting” in the past, the high number of respondents who did not report approaches at all gives reason to process work on this problem thoroughly. Thereby, the message that there is an obligation to report should be emphasized even more intensive as well as to whom to report to.

## **Ad 8) Match-fixing prevention in Sport Clubs**

Given that most of the data were collected after prevention workshops of the Play Fair Code, the results of the question on “Match-fixing prevention in sport clubs” appear to be a paradox.

Attending a prevention workshop (initiated by the own club) and right afterwards quoting “that their club does not pay attention to match-fixing” or “that they don’t know if their club pays attention to match-fixing” suggests that this question was not answered properly. This could be related to the order of the questions. This question was the last question of the survey. Alternatively, it could be related to the



variety of offered answers or a lack of understanding the question, which could have been perceived as incomprehensible or too extensive.

The results and figures of this EPOSM survey offer an interesting and valuable reflection of Play Fair Code's work, which will be echoed in adapting future approaches of the prevention work.