

Information letter for questionnaire participants

Title of the study: Evidence-based Prevention of Sporting-related Match-fixing

Official title: "Evidence-based Prevention of Sporting-related Match-fixing" - EPOSM

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are hereby kindly invited to participate in a study. Before you decide to go ahead, please read this information letter carefully. Once you have decided to participate in the study, you must agree to the conditions stipulated above the survey. These conditions correspond to the informed consent of this study. If you tick the box stating that "you agree to participate in the questionnaire and that you have read and understood the information", then you can start filling in the questionnaire. By ticking the box, you agree with the informed consent of this study. If you would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact eposm@ugent.be.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

Match-fixing, or the manipulation of sports competitions, is a scourge that goes way back and still plagues the sports world today. However, it was only with the development of the internet, in the mid-1990s, that match-fixing became an increasing and global problem. This evolution brought with it a large number of new forms of match-fixing, which changed the nature of the problem and made it difficult to detect and prevent. In addition, match-fixing also has an obvious number of adverse effects. For example, it impairs the unpredictability of the sport, compromising both its popularity and survival. Moreover, the mental and physical integrity of those involved, as well as that of their families and loved ones, is often threatened. Despite the ever-increasing attention for match-fixing, little empirical research (research based on direct, own observations) into match-fixing has been conducted to date. Furthermore, there is still a lack of awareness about the prevalence of (sporting-related) match-fixing and about the moral challenges faced by those involved.

This study focuses specifically on match-fixing in seven European countries in multiple sports disciplines. In each country, three sports disciplines will be surveyed. In the different countries, in addition to football and tennis, basketball (Belgium, Austria, Switzerland and Croatia), field hockey (the Netherlands), handball (France and Austria) and cricket (United Kingdom) will also be surveyed. The aim of the study is (a) to examine the prevalence of (sporting-related) match-fixing in the aforementioned seven European countries and sports disciplines and (b) to examine the moral decision-making of those involved in match-fixing. The results of this study will contribute to the elaboration of the Erasmus+ Sport project "Evidence-based Prevention of Sport-related Match-fixing (EPOSM)". The EPOSM project team consists of:

- Ghent University (BEL – coordinating organisation)
- Utrecht University (NLD – project partner organisation)

- The French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS) (FRA – project partner organisation)
- Play Fair Code (AUT – project partner organisation)
- Croatian Olympic Committee (HRV – project partner organisation)
- Lausanne University (CHE – project partner organisation)
- Loughborough University (GBR – project partner organisation)
- Panathlon International (ITA – project partner organisation)
- International Centre Ethics in Sport (ICES) (BEL – project partner organisation)
- Counter Sport Corruption Foundation for Sport Integrity (CSCF) (NLD – project partner organisation)
- Council of Europe (associated partner organisation)

The ultimate goal of this project is to raise the awareness about (sporting-related) match-fixing and to help prevent it.

WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY MEAN FOR YOU?

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY

In order to achieve the desired goal of this study (cf. Supra), adult actors (18 years or older) who are or were involved in one of the respective sports disciplines in their respective countries (see above) will be asked to complete an online questionnaire. The questionnaire was developed by the sports management team of Ghent University, and subsequently fine-tuned by the EPOSM consortium.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE?

The expected total duration for completing the questionnaire is 15 minutes.

WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM THE PARTICIPANTS?

The participants have to fill in a questionnaire about match-fixing.

WHICH PROCEDURES WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE STUDY?

Procedures:

Before completing the questionnaires, the respondents will be able to check the conditions or the informed consent. If the respondents agree to the conditions described and have read them, they can start filling in the questionnaires. The respondents take part in the scientific study entirely of their own free will and also give the researchers permission to store, edit and report the data collected completely anonymously. Moreover, the respondents can at any time decide to stop participating in the questionnaire and this without any consequences. It will take around 15 minutes to complete the questionnaire. The collected data will be stored for at least 5 years on the shared drive of the Ghent University sports management team (coordinator of the EPOSM project). After the international data (of the seven countries) have been

processed and reported together, the national data will be distributed to the respective national partners of the EPOSM project for further analysis (Play Fair Code for Austria, Utrecht University for the Netherlands, The French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS) for France, Croatian Olympic Committee for Croatia, Lausanne University for Switzerland, Loughborough University for United Kingdom, and Ghent University for Belgium). The data will be processed using SPSS software. SPSS is a computer analysis package for the data analysis of quantitative studies. The processing manager is Stef Van Der Hoeven.

Study progress:

If you decide to take part in the study and meet all the conditions for participation, you can start completing the questionnaire below:

The participants must complete a one-off match-fixing questionnaire. Once the questionnaire has been completed, we will not ask for any further involvement from the participant.

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS WHEN PARTICIPATING IN THIS STUDY?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary; there can be no question of coercion in any way. You can refuse to participate in the study and withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences for you.

This study was approved beforehand by the Ethical Committee of Psychology and Educational Sciences of Ghent University. Under no circumstances should you consider the approval by this Ethical Committee as an incentive to participate in this study.

Confidentiality

All data are collected anonymously and stored, processed and reported as such. These anonymous data will be used in all documentation, reports or publications (in scientific journals or congresses) about the study. Anonymity of your data is therefore always guaranteed. The collected data will be processed and stored for at least 5 years. If you have any questions, concerns or complaints, please contact the Data Protection Officer of the University of Ghent (privacy@ugent.be). If you have not received a satisfactory answer via eposm@ugent.be or privacy@ugent.be, you can contact the Data Protection Authority (Drukpersstraat 35, 1000 Brussels, contact@apd-gba.be).

WHAT ARE THE RISKS AND EXPECTED BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THIS STUDY?

Participation in this study is unlikely to be of immediate benefit to you. However, your participation in the study may help improve the prevention of match-fixing in the future.

The likelihood that you will suffer any damage as a result of participating in this study is extremely low.

ARE THERE ANY COSTS INVOLVED IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS STUDY?

Your participation in this study does not entail any additional costs for you.

IS THERE ANY COMPENSATION FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS STUDY?

No compensation is provided for the participants.

WHO CAN YOU ADDRESS IN CASE OF PROBLEMS OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

If you would like additional information about the study or about your rights and obligations, you can contact the coordinator of the EPOSM project at any time during the course of the study:

Coordinator: Ghent University
Department of Movement and Sports Sciences
Research Group Sports Management
Prof. Dr. Annick Willem (eposm@ugent.be)