

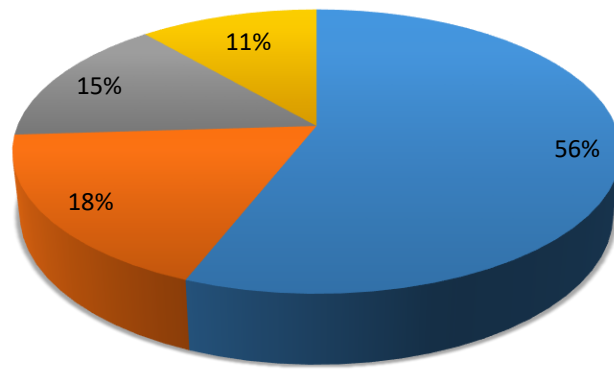
# Sports Betting Integrity

## Quarterly Snapshot November 2021

## Reports to the SBIU

July – September 2021\*

### Reports by Sport



- Football
- Tennis
- ESports
- Other Sports

\* This data is broadly consistent with previous quarters.

\* The Gambling Commission will not provide further breakdown of these figures, as this may lead to the identification of individuals or events and hinder any ongoing or potential investigations.

### SBIF Cryptocurrency Webinar

On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021 the [Sports Betting Integrity Forum \(SBIF\)](#) hosted a webinar entitled 'An Introduction to Cryptocurrency', in conjunction with the [Blockchain Intelligence Group](#). As the title suggests, the webinar provided attendees with an overview on the field of cryptocurrencies. The session explored fundamental questions such as 'What is cryptocurrency?', 'How is cryptocurrency created and distributed?' and 'How is cryptocurrency converted into mainstream currencies?'. It also discussed various pertinent considerations when cryptocurrencies form part of investigations. The session was attended by nearly 50 delegates from various sectors including sports, betting and law-enforcement.

### CoE Presentation - The European Online Networking Session

The SBIU presented at the Council of Europe's (CoE) [European Online Networking Session](#) held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The virtual workshop, attended by numerous 'National Platforms' and key sports stakeholders, aimed to share information on good working practices regarding the implementation of the [Macolin Convention](#). The SBIU represents the operational arm of the UK's National Platform. The session also outlined the importance of collaboration, between betting integrity stakeholders, in the fight against competition manipulation. Several stakeholders shared their experiences of implementing the convention as well good practice examples of effective collaboration mechanisms.

### Fourth International Forum for Sporting Integrity (IFSI)

On 9 November SBIU colleagues joined the [Fourth International Forum for Sporting Integrity](#) webinar organised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Council of Europe. The Forum stressed the importance of good governance as the major mitigating factor for corruption risks in sports organisations and highlighted the necessity of cooperation to exchange information on corruption cases. The full webinar can be viewed on the [IOC Media YouTube](#) page.



International  
Olympic  
Committee



SPORTS BETTING  
INTEGRITY FORUM

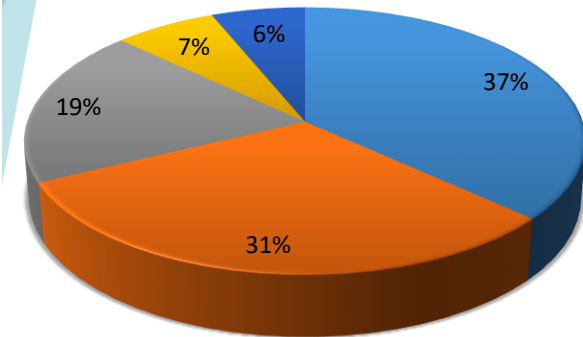
# Sports Betting Integrity

## Quarterly Snapshot November 2021

# GAMBLING COMMISSION

### Reports to the SBIU July – September 2021\*

#### Source of Reports



- Betting Operator 15.1
- Sports Governing Body
- Bet monitoring/Data provider
- Other Source
- Other Regulators/National Platforms

#### Interpol's Operation SOGA

The Gambling Commission's [Sports Betting Intelligence Unit](#) works closely with both UK and international stakeholders, including the National Crime Agency and Interpol, to tackle the threat from betting-related corruption. This is one of a range of measures in place to ensure the UK remains a safe place to host major international events.

Given the timing of [Op SOGA](#) (throughout UEFA Euro 2020) and the fact that the UK was hosting key matches within the competition (including the semi-finals and final), both the Gambling Commission and the National Crime Agency were pleased to be able to support this important international operation, led by Interpol.

Whilst there was no related activity of concern identified within the UK throughout the Euros, collaborating with Interpol on this valuable global initiative was another key element of the UK's approach to safeguarding sports and sports betting.

#### Case Outcomes

[A former racing specialist at the Press Association \(PA Media\)](#) has been jailed for 10 months, at Hull Crown Court, for fraud by abuse of position. Jack Bentham was responsible for setting market odds for betting operators and used his role to manipulate market data for his own gain. Bentham, 24, had been working at the Press Association for around a month before he defrauded betting operators by over £15,000.

The offences took place between 13<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 and were initially identified by regulated betting operators and reported to the SBIU in the form of suspicious betting patterns. Subsequent Gambling Commission engagement with Humberside Police led to the launch of a criminal investigation and successful prosecution for this offending.

**Where are these events taking place & who are we engaging with?**

- Over 25 Non-GB countries
- Both GB & international sports governing bodies
- Both national & international law enforcement agencies

**You can get in touch with our Sports Betting Intelligence Unit anonymously**

 +44 121 230 6655

 [sbiu@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:sbiu@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)



Other sources includes: Gambling Commission confidential reporting line, non-Gambling Commission licensed operators, law enforcement agencies and members of the public.  
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