

IPACS Benchmark Guidelines

Updated 1 February 2022

IPACS Benchmark B5 – The organisation provides for appropriate investigation of incidents affecting sports integrity

Definitions

- Sports integrity – moral and ethical principles underpinning sport, covering integrity of people, competitions and organisations; issues affecting sports integrity are those that make people doubt that sport is a true, fair and safe contest or that it is ethical; threats to sports integrity include abuse of function, cheating, match manipulation (gambling-related or other), doping and bullying and harassment, among others

Introduction to this Benchmark and its significance

- It is important that sporting competitions are believed to be a true, fair and safe contest between participants; if sports integrity is threatened, there are fundamental risks that confidence and trust will be lost by stakeholders in the sports movement
- While it is important to have the necessary rules in place, adequate resources should also be made available to investigate alleged breaches of the organisation's rules in relation to sports integrity

Commentary on the action to be taken

- The procedure for investigations should be set out within the relevant rules (see also Recommendations B1 on the Code of Ethics, B2 on anti-doping, B3 on match manipulation and B7 on safeguarding)
- The organisation should allow for victims to seek remedy
- The organisation's rules should be published alongside other relevant regulations (refer to IPACS Recommendation A1)
- Appropriate resources should be made available

Investment requirement – the level of investment should be proportionate to the specific nature of the organisation and the sport(s)

Guidance according to stage of organisation

Early stage

- The organisation makes reference in its rules to the procedure for investigations (e.g. an ad hoc person or panel is designated to conduct the investigation within specific parameters)
- The organisation co-operates with public authorities when there is suspicion of a criminal offence

Developing

- The organisation has a defined process and appropriate resources for investigating threats to sports integrity, such as a designated individual or commission with sufficient expertise
- The investigation process is handled independently
- The rules allow for victims to seek remedy
- The overall approach is shaped by an assessment of risk and legal obligations

Advanced

- The organisation has a state-of-the-art intelligence-gathering and investigation process, which includes the use of external services where applicable
- The organisation can show evidence of implementation of the procedures
- The organisation monitors the effectiveness of its procedures and improves them according to lessons learned through practical implementation
- The organisation publishes details of cases/investigations, protecting personal data in accordance with applicable standards, working with public authorities where necessary

Good practice examples

International Federations (from 2020)

- FEI: There is a dedicated [Equestrian Community Integrity Unit](#), which investigates cases and reports to the General Assembly - see paragraph 32 in the [2018 minutes](#) [Guidelines for the evidence gathering process](#)
- ITF: There is an independent [Tennis Integrity Unit](#) with full information available
- World Athletics: The [rules](#) and [processes](#) for investigations are clearly explained
- FIS: [Investigations are outsourced to a specialist supplier](#)

Overall standard among International Federations:

- 30 out of 31 members of ASOIF had clear processes and rules for investigations, including participation in the IOC's Integrity Betting Intelligence System (IBIS)

Continental Bodies

- None seen

National Olympic Committees

- Moroccan Olympic Committee (CNOM): [Independent arbitration chamber](#)
- German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB): [Ombudsman to investigation alleged breaches of rules](#)

National Federation

- [Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland](#): independent dispute resolution service for Irish sport

Selected references

- [ASOIF GTF Questionnaire 2019-20](#), Indicator 3.6
- Council of Europe, Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport - [Guidelines on sport integrity](#)
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, [Addendum to the report "Working towards a framework for modern sports governance"](#): Principle 3.2: Ethical and disciplinary control

ASOIF indicator 3.6 – scoring definitions used in the 2019-20 assessment

- 0 – No
- 1 – Some reference to investigation of threats to sports integrity in official documents
- 2 – Defined investigation process for threats to sports integrity (e.g. through participation in IBIS)
- 3 – Dedicated resources and process for threats to sports integrity, evidence of implementation
- 4 – State of the art intelligence gathering and investigation process for threats to sports integrity, evidence of implementation (e.g. case management system, cases investigated in accordance with due process)