



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SOCOMUN XXXIII

NOT FRESHMAN A

**TOPIC: CORRUPTION IN SPORTING
EVENTS**



SOCOMUN XXXIII



NOT Freshman A Corruption in Sporting Events

Hi delegates! My name is Sophia Angelos, and I am looking forward to being your chair for the 2024 SOCOMUN conference! I am a senior at Santa Margarita, and this will be my fourth year participating in MUN. Through my past three years with MUN, I have learned many valuable skills related to public speaking, debates, collaboration, and organization. MUN has also allowed me to travel with my classmates to UCSB, UCSD, and Georgetown for conferences. Outside of MUN, I enjoy playing soccer, skiing, and hanging out with my friends. I hope that all of you have a great time, learn a lot, and get to appreciate MUN as much as I do! Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at socomunnota@gmail.com.

Hello! My name is Kacy Knierim; I'm a junior at SMCHS and will be your vice chair for SOCOMUN this year. Although it is my first time as a vice chair, I have previously managed a conference before as a rapporteur. As a delegate, I have participated in various conferences and have received research, commendations, and outstanding awards. Outside of MUN, I enjoy baking, reading, and participating in indoor skydiving. I can't wait to meet all of you!

Hello delegates, my name is Richard Mejia, and I will be your rapporteur for NOT Freshman A. I am currently a Sophomore at Santa Margarita Catholic High School and plan to do MUN for all four of my years at SMCHS. I enjoy Boy Scouts, writing, and having fun with my friends and family. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I look forward to preparing for the upcoming SOCOMUN conference.

As a teaching conference, SOCOMUN offers delegates an excellent opportunity to familiarize themselves with the format and procedures of MUN conferences. Everyone attending the conference will have the chance to speak out in committee and support your ideas and solutions. We understand that some delegates might be inexperienced with MUN and its protocols, so please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have. Students will be assigned a country to represent with the topic of corruption in sporting events before the conference. You will want to familiarize yourself with this topic and bring an understanding of it to the conference. Every conference participant who wants to speak will be added to a speakers list, and all speakers will have a standard one-minute speech that lasts for thirty seconds, followed by two more 30-second remarks from other delegations. It is also possible for delegates to propose both formal and informal consultations. Formal consultations should have a specified topic and speaking time to address it, however informal consultations are used as an opportunity to meet with all the delegates and discuss different aspects of the topic and personal solutions with other delegations. Delegates with similar policies on the subject will form resolution groups later in the conference. You will develop resolution papers in these groups, which the committee will then present and vote on. A resolution may be presented by one-third of your group, and these delegates will respond to questions on their proposals following the presentation. We invite you to do the best you can, have a willingness to listen, and learn all you can about the issue and the policies of your country! I am excited to see everyone in committee! Again, please reach out with any questions to (socomunnota@gmail.com).



SOCOMUN XXXIII



E4JMUN Resources from the UNODC:

The UNODC provides informative resources on corruption for students that you can and should consult.

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/crime-prevention/corruption.html>

This site provides specifics regarding corruption and crime prevention which will be very useful in researching the topic. Information about the SDGs and relevant UN bodies are also included.

<https://www.unodc.org/e4j/mun/resources/corruption.html>

There are links to additional resources when you scroll down. These sites give information on past UN actions to prevent corruption, and the conventions that were held.

Background:

Corruption in sporting events has been a long-standing issue worldwide, however, in recent years the global community has seen an influx of illegal activities surrounding sporting events. Corruption in sports is a widespread issue that threatens the integrity and fairness of not only sports games, but the morals and lives of the players, coaches, and referees involved. Corruption can take many different forms such as illegal betting and gambling, match-fixing, bribery, doping, and the manipulation of events for monetary or personal gain. All these possibilities have far-reaching consequences that lead to the loss of trust in sporting agencies, and all those involved in the world of sports.

Illegal betting has been noted as the major driver of all corruption in sporting events. This is most commonly done through match-fixing. Match-fixing is where individuals or groups manipulate the outcome of a sporting event for illicit gain. This may include officials, coaches, players, or other parties working together to deliberately manipulate a game to guarantee a particular outcome or change key elements of the competition, such as scoring rates or occurrences in the game. It can manifest itself in several ways, including when athletes purposefully perform below their level of play, when referees make biased calls, or when betting networks place wagers on events they know are going to occur.

One of the more recent examples of match-fixing comes from the cue sport of snooker. In 2023, ten Chinese professional snooker players were accused of match-fixing, mostly in connection with World Snooker Tour gambling. Eight participants had their playing suspension extended by up to five years, while Liang Wenbo and Li Hang were banned for life. One decade prior, in 2013, British athlete Stephen Lee received a 12-year ban for seven charges of match-fixing. According to the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA), Lee purposefully lost games to benefit himself or other people.

Various factors contribute to corruption in sporting events, such as the allure of financial rewards, lack of oversight, weak governance structures, and individual greed. Organizations like Transparency International and the International Center for Sport Security (ICSS) are actively involved in research and advocacy efforts to combat corruption in sports and promote transparency and ethics.

Transparency International is an NGO that conducts research, pushes for legislative changes, and raises awareness of the topic of battling corruption in all its forms on a global scale. Most importantly, they initiated the International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) to push the agenda for fighting corruption and to exchange information. Comparably, the International Center for Sport Security (ICSS) fights corruption in sports by offering official, coach, and



SOCOMUN XXXIII



athlete training programs; looking into claims of bribery and match-fixing; and working with international sports federations to put integrity measures like anti-doping policies and governance reforms into place.

One notable UN action that was used to combat corruption in sporting events was the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2003, which includes provisions specifically addressing the root causes of said corruption. These provisions encourage measures such as promoting integrity in sports governance, preventing conflicts of interest, and enhancing transparency in sports organizations.

Another significant UN action to overcome corruption in sporting events occurred in 2015 when the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched the "Line Up Live Up" program. This program targeted youth populations to encourage honesty, cooperation, and fair play as alternatives to participating in illegal activities. Its goal was to reduce corruption and crime through sports-based activities.

Additionally, in 2017, the UNODC, in collaboration with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), launched the "Youth Crime Prevention through Sports Initiative." By giving young people opportunities to participate in sports, promoting positive values, leadership skills, and social inclusion, and lessening their susceptibility to corruption and criminal behavior, this initiative aims to use sports as a tool for crime prevention and youth development.

To maintain the integrity, justice, and ideals that drive athletic competition, as well as to protect the trust of players, spectators, and other stakeholders, corruption in sports must be addressed immediately. Thus, ensuring the long-term viability and legitimacy of sporting institutions throughout the globe.

Possible Solutions:

Remember to consider every aspect of your possible solutions while formulating your strategies for combating corruption in sporting events. Addressing the 5Ws (who, what, where, when, and why) and providing a thorough explanation of your implementation strategy are effective ways to do this. Your solutions will be more compelling and harder for delegates to find flaws in if you provide additional details. Coming up with solutions will be easier after a thorough comprehension of the problem as well as research into prior actions and efforts at fixing it. By examining the reasons behind the success or failure of these methods, you may improve or include these components. When it is suitable, you should make use of and include foreign organizations such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in your solutions for help. There will not be a problem finding money for your proposals because it can all come from the UN Fifth Budgetary Committee, so there is no need to address the financial aspect of your solutions. Also, Since SOCOMUN is an international conference, all your solutions should be relevant to all countries. Keep this in mind while brainstorming possible ideas!



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SOCOMUN XXXIII



MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Solution Ideas:

One solution that could be established is to implement strict financial controls in sporting organizations. These controls could include conducting regular and thorough audits of financial records to ensure transparency. The auditors appointed would be independent parties that merely observe and check the financial controls to make sure there is no detection of illegal and suspicious monetary activity.

A second solution would focus on addressing illegal betting online. The best way to prevent this would be to develop and implement an AI-powered tool that could accurately identify and flag suspicious betting patterns that are indicative of illegal activity. This tool would be powered by advanced machine learning algorithms to analyze large amounts of data in record times, and whenever questionable activity is detected, the system would automatically alert betting platforms and legal authorities enabling them to investigate further and potentially block these transactions.

A third solution would be to spread awareness of corruption in sporting events. This could be done through the use of social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and even TikTok to ensure that a wide range of people are receiving the education they need to address corruption in sporting events. The posts made to these accounts would detail ways corruption takes place (like match-fixing and doping) and explain ways to identify these activities, involving the global community in the efforts to stop corruption in sports.

A fourth solution addresses the unethical transfer of players. Several measures can be taken including implementing transparent transfer regulations, regulating agent activities, and protecting players' rights. The regulations for governing player transfers should be clear and direct for all players and should be enforced by sports governing bodies to ensure that all players comply with and adhere to the rules. Also, agents should be required to adhere to this conduct as well and must undergo training to obtain their licenses from these specific regulatory bodies. Any agents who are caught mishandling player transfers through misconduct or unethical behavior will have their license permanently revoked. Finally, players will be provided with access to legal counsel and representation throughout the transfer process to negotiate fair contracts and resolve any disputes while keeping the freedom and interests of the players at the forefront of decision-making.



SOCOMUN XXXIII



Questions to Consider:

These are questions that should be considered as you conduct your research, as they will help you gather an understanding of the topic, find your country's policy, and form solutions. They are encouraged but not required to be answered.

1. Have any corruption-related events with sporting happened in your country? How were they dealt with? In what ways could the response have been improved?
2. What are the underlying causes and motivations behind corrupt practices in sporting events? How can these be addressed?
3. How does corruption affect the credibility and reputation of sports organizations and governing bodies? Should those organizations caught in corruption be treated more strictly? If so, in what ways could this be achieved?
4. Are there any gaps or weaknesses in the established regulatory framework that facilitate corrupt practices?
5. How does technology influence the prevalence and detection of corruption in sports?
6. To what extent does corruption in sporting events have an international effect (e.g. cross-border match-fixing networks, global betting markets)? What should the international community do in response to these internationally corrupt practices?
7. Are there examples of successful anti-corruption initiatives or good practices implemented in sports organizations?



SOCOMUN XXXIII



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